

## Comparative study of mouthparts of the female of two species of *Dasybasis* Macquart from Chile (Diptera: Tabanidae)

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### Abstract

Mouthparts of the female of two species representing *Dasybasis* Macquart were examined by scanning electron microscopy, and their structures are herein described. The morphology of mouthparts of these species suggests a haematophagous feeding habit. Females of *D. senilis* (Philippi) and *D. testaceomaculata* (Macquart) have mandibles with marginal teeth developed and lacinia and labrum with teeth and microteeth.

**Key words:** Tabanidae, Tabaninae, mouthparts morphology, feeding, Chile

### Introduction

Tabanidae (Diptera) are recognized in all zoogeographic regions where they occur by the haematophagous habit of the females (Teskey 1990). Their hosts include mammals (Perich et al. 1986), reptiles (Henriques *et al.* 2000; Ferreira *et al.* 2002) and birds (Oliveira *et al.* 2002). This habit can cause transmission of various diseases to humans and other animals (Krinsky 1976). The biological studies of the Neotropical species are often incomplete, fragmentary or unknown for many of the 1.172 species cited for the region (Fairchild & Burger 1994).

The haematophagous habit is represented in the females of many species of Tabanidae (McKeever & French 1999). Females of other species are nectarophagous (González & Flores 2004), as are the males of most Tabanidae. Haematophagous females have specialized elements that constitute the proboscis (González & Sanhueza 2003), in