

Recharacterization of *Rhynchoheterotricha* Freeman (Diptera, Sciaroidea), with description of *R. chandleri* sp. n. from South Africa

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Abstract

Rhynchoheterotricha chandleri sp. n. is described from South Africa. It differs from the earlier known *R. stuckenbergae* Freeman by having a setose wing membrane and a proboscis that is only about half the height of the head rather than about three times as long as the head. Through a detailed morphological analysis, the genus is recharacterized. The previously unknown female morphology is presented.

Key words: *Rhynchoheterotricha*, Sciaroidea, new species, morphology

Introduction

Freeman (1960) established the genus *Rhynchoheterotricha* for a new species, *R. stuckenbergae*, from South Africa, of which only the male was known. He noted that the new genus was related to *Heterotricha* Loew, known both as fossil and recent species from the Southern Hemisphere, and that it was more similar to the South American species described by him earlier (Freeman 1951) than to the other species of the *Heterotricha* group, at that time known from New Zealand and South Africa. Later, Chandler (2002) erected a new genus *Chiletricha* for the South American species and regarded it as the sister group of *Rhynchoheterotricha*. The same conclusion was reached by Hippa & Vilkamaa (2005), who made a cladistic analysis of all the main groups of recent and fossil Sciaroidea.

In the analysis of Hippa & Vilkamaa (2005), an unnamed and undescribed species known to us from both sexes was used to represent *Rhynchoheterotricha*; the genus,