

Redescription of *Culex (Culex) brethesi* Dyar, 1919 (Diptera: Culicidae)

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Abstract

Culex (Culex) brethesi Dyar is redescribed in the adult, pupal and fourth-instars larvae and the male genitalia. The paper includes available information on the taxonomy and distribution of the species. The taxonomy and identification of *Cx. brethesi* are reviewed in light of current knowledge of the subgenus *Culex*.

Key words: Diptera, Culicidae, *Culex brethesi*, male, female, larva, pupa, Argentina

Introduction

Culex (Culex) brethesi was named by Dyar (1919) based on the male genitalia of *Culex lynchii* Bréthès, 1912 (illustrated by Bréthès, 1916), a junior synonym of *Aedes crinifer* (Theobald, 1903). The first brief description of the species appeared in Dyar (1928). Edwards (1932) listed *brethesi* in the *salinarius-apicinus* section and suggested the possibility that it was the same species known as *Cx. dolosus* (Lynch Arribalzaga, 1891). *Culex brethesi* was synonymized with *Cx. inflicus* Theobald, 1901 by Lane (1953), without explanation. Duret (1953) mentioned the presence, in his collection, of the first known male of *Cx. brethesi* from Buenos Aires Province. Bachmann and Casal (1962) compared the genitalia of *Cx. brethesi* with those of *Cx. inflicus* and stated that Duret (1953) validated this synonymy of these nominal species by Lane (1953). Duret (1953) however, did not mention this. Bachmann and Casal (1962) also presented a brief description of the pupal and larval stages. Forattini (1965) followed Bachmann and Casal's description of the pupa and larva, and misunderstood the description of the adults characterized as "tromba escura", "tergites abdominais escuros com faixas basais de escamas brancas", and "ditistilo com fina anelacao na extremidade distal". The description of *Culex brethesi* by Bram (1967), and the characters used to identify this species in his