

Ptychopteridae — a family of flies (Diptera) new to the Neotropical Region and description of a new species

E. GEOFFREY HANCOCK¹, M-ANGELES MARCOS-GARCIA² &
GRAHAM E. ROTHERAY³

¹Hunterian Museum (Zoology), Graham Kerr Building, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, G12 8QQ, UK.
E-mail: ghancock@museum.gla.ac.uk

²Departamento de Ciencias Ambientales y Recursos Naturales, Universidad de Alicante, E-03080, Alicante, Spain. E-mail: marcos@ua.es

³National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, UK. E-mail: g.rotheray@nms.ac.uk

Abstract

A new species of *Ptychoptera* Meigen (Diptera: Ptychopteridae) is described from cloud forest in southern Mexico, representing the first definitive record of the family in the Neotropical Region.

Key words: Ptychopteridae, new species, biogeography

Introduction

Field work during 2003 in cloud forest of the Sierra Madre, a mountain range in the Chiapas Province of southern Mexico, revealed a new species of *Ptychoptera* Meigen (Diptera: Ptychopteridae). This work was conducted as part of a joint program involving entomologists from Mexico, Spain, and Scotland, who were studying the ecology and biodiversity of scarabaeoid Coleoptera and various families of Diptera. The Ptychopteridae were not previously known from the Neotropical Region (Papavero 1967). The family occurs in the Palaearctic (30 species), Nearctic (12 species), Afrotropical (9 species), and Oriental (15 species) regions of the world and has been well defined morphologically by Alexander (1981). The only summary at the family level, on a world scale, is given by Alexander (1927). The putative existence of an undescribed species of Ptychopteridae from southern South America (Alexander 1920, 1927) has been traced to two sources mentioning the family. The first of these refers to the genus *Ptychoptera* occurring in Argentina (Weyenbergh in Napp 1876) as part of a general listing of that country's natural resources. The second is by Osten-Sacken (1878) who reported that there