

A new genus and species of Bennarellini from Costa Rica (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Cixiidae)

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Abstract

A new genus, *Noabennarella* gen. nov. and a new species, *Noabennarella costaricensis* **spec. nov.**, from Costa Rica, are described. Considering *Noabennarella* as an example, general descriptions of Bennarellini characters, including first detailed descriptions of male and female genitalia, are given.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, planthoppers, Cixiidae, new species, morphology

Introduction

Bennarellini Emeljanov is a small neotropical tribe within the family Cixiidae Spinola. It comprises only two genera and three species: *Bennarella* Muir, 1930 with *B. bicoloripennis* Muir, 1930 (known from Brazil and Guyana) and *B. fusca* Muir, 1930 (Brazil); and *Amazobenna* Penny, 1980 with *A. reticulata* Penny, 1980 (Brazil). Bennarellini has been separated from Bennini Metcalf by Emeljanov (1989), based mainly on the morphology of their unique abdominal appendages (see Figs. 1, 2, 3, 5). These appendages must be considered as a clear autapomorphy of Bennarellini. Superficially similar ones are present only in two other Fulgoromorpha taxa at all, namely in the Cixiidae tribe Bennini Metcalf and in the family Achilixiidae. In both taxa, the morphology of their abdominal appendages is completely different from that of Bennarellini (see Fig. 6, and O'Brien & Wilson 1985, Wilson 1989, Holzinger et al. 2003, Tsaur 1988).

In the course of a field trip to Costa Rica, the second author collected Bennarellini specimens that belong to an obviously undescribed species. Regarding the generic concepts of the two known Bennarellini genera *sensu* Penny (1980), these specimens also represent a new genus. Thus we describe *Noabennarella* nov. gen. to accommodate the