Robackia Sæther from China (Diptera: Chironomidae)

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Abstract

Robackia parallela sp. n. from Oriental China is described and illustrated as male. It differs from other known species of the genus by having a low antennal ratio, a parallel-sided superior volsella, and abdomen with dark brown marks. Chinese males of R. pilicauda Sæther are examined and figured. A key to all males of Robackia is given.

Key words: Chironomidae, Robackia, new species, key, China

Introduction

Sæther (1977) erected the genus Robackia for Tendipes (Parachironomus) demejerei Kruseman, 1933. The genus is a member of the Harnischia complex. It is close to Parachironomus in having a digitiform superior volsella and an inferior volsella bearing microtrichia, but can be distinguished by having a clavate gonostylus, often presence of short setae on the anal point, a few setae on wing veins R, R₁ and R₄₊₅, and a superior volsella without distinct preapical tooth and conspicuous setal pits.

The genus comprise 4 described species: R. demejerei (Kruseman, 1933) (Holarctic), R. pilicauda Sæther, 1977 (Palaeartic and Oriental), R. aculeata Zorina, 2003 (Palaeartic), and R. claviger (Townes, 1945) (Nearctic) (Oliver et al. 1990; Sæther et al. 2000; Wang et al. 1991; Zorina 2003). Sæther et al. (2000) listed “R. manifesta Shilova” in the Manual of Palaeartic Diptera. However, according to Dr. Makarchenko (pers. com.), the species name occurred in an article by Zelentzov and Shilova (1996), but so far the species has not been described, and the name must be regarded as a nomen nudum.

Wang et al. (1991) recoded R. pilicauda from the Guangdong Province in Oriental China. Wang and Wang (1991) recorded larvae of R. demejerei from the Liaoning Province in Palaeartic China. In this paper, a new Robackia species recently collected in the Sichuan Province is described, and males of R. pilicauda from China are examined. A key to all males of Robackia is provided.