

***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*) *demeijerei* 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. demeijerei* (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 Zelentsov 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. demeijerei* 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.