

ZOOTAXA

1381

**A review of the asilid (Diptera) fauna from Hispaniola
with six genera new to the island, fifteen new species, and checklist**

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Magnolia Press
Auckland, New Zealand

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(*Zootaxa* 1381)

91 pp.; 30 cm.

14 Dec. 2006

ISBN 978-1-86977-066-2 (paperback)

ISBN 978-1-86977-067-9 (Online edition)

FIRST PUBLISHED IN 2006 BY

Magnolia Press

P.O. Box 41383

Auckland 1030

New Zealand

e-mail: zootaxa@mapress.com

<http://www.mapress.com/zootaxa/>

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ISSN 1175-5326 (Print edition)

ISSN 1175-5334 (Online edition)

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Abstract

The robber fly fauna of the 6 subfamilies Apocleinae, Asilinae, Laphrinae, Ommatiinae, Stenopogoninae, and Trigonimiminae of Hispaniola with special reference to the Dominican Republic is reviewed in light of new collections. This paper reports 6 genera (*Cerotainia* Schiner, *Eumecosoma* Schiner, *Holcocephala* Jaenicke, *Pilica* Curran, *Proctacanthella* Bromley, and *Rhopalogaster* Macquart) new to the island, increasing the number to 20. Within the West Indies, *Eumecosoma*, *Holcocephala*, *Pilica*, and *Proctacanthella* are only known from Hispaniola. Also, 33 species are reported, including 15 new species (*Atomosia anacaona*, *A. ciguaya*, *A. jagua*, *A. jimagua*, *A. yurabia*, *Cerotainia sola*, *Eumecosoma caeruleum*, *Holcocephala indigena*, *Ommatius geminus*, *O. laticrus*, *O. maculosus*, *O. praelongus*, *Proctacanthella taina*, *Plesiomma simile*, and *Rhopalogaster albidus*), increasing the number to 62 species plus 2 species in Dominican amber. The male of *O. cinnamomeus* Scarbrough & females of *Plesiomma inflatum* and *Proctacanthus darlingtoni* Curran are reported for the first time. The *Ommatius lucidatus* species group is established with 8 extant and 2 fossil species. *Plesiomma angustum* (Macquart) and *Atoniomyia mikii* (Williston) are rediscovered and redescribed. *Plesiomma lineata* (Fabricius) is removed from the distribution list for Cuba and Jamaica and *Neophoneus* is removed from the list of West Indies asilids because of an error in identification. *Neophoneus flavotibis* Bigot tentatively diagnosed as belonging to the genus *Efferia*. *Plesiomma macra* Loew is removed from synonymy. Significant structures of most species are illustrated and keys to selected species are included. At least one species of *Atoniomyia* and *Pilica* remain undescribed from this survey. New distribution records for most species and a checklist of the Hispaniolan fauna are also included.

Key words: Asilidae, new species, distribution records, Hispaniola

Introduction

The Hispaniolan asilid fauna, as well as all of the West Indies, have been sparsely sampled, and are poorly known. Most new discoveries have resulted from systematic surveys conducted over a period of years, such as those in Dominica and Hispaniola. Prior to 1900, Bigot (1875, 1878), Fabricius (1775), Johnson (1894), Macquart (1848), Olivier (1789), Walker (1885), Williston (1885, 1886) described the first 10 Hispaniolan species. Six species were added by Bromley (1928, 1931), Curran (1951), and Hull (1962) during the next 78 years for a total of 16 species. Subsequently, Scarbrough (1984, 1997, 2001) and colleagues (Scarbrough & Poinar, 1993; Scarbrough & Perez-Gelabert, 2003, 2005) have added the remaining 46 species, plus 2 in Dominican amber, for a total of 20 genera and 64 species.

Of the 165 species recorded in the West Indies, 153 or 86% are endemic species. The