



Studies on the Canacidae (Diptera), subfamily Apetaeninae. I. *Apetaenus enderleini*, *nomen novum* for *Listriomastax litorea* Enderlein, 1909, with remarks on the chaetotaxy, morphology, and habitats of the Apetaeninae from the Kerguelen Biogeographical Province

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Abstract

A thorough examination of the chaetotaxy and morphology of the subantarctic Apetaeninae *Apetaenus littoralis* Eaton, 1875 and *Listriomastax litorea* Enderlein, 1909 has corroborated the early generic synonymy proposed by Hennig (1971). Thus, the latter genus is re-considered as a junior synonym of *Apetaenus* Eaton, 1875. Accordingly, *Apetaenus litoreus* (Enderlein, 1909), *nomen preoccupatum* by *A. littoreus* (Hutton, 1902), changes its specific epithet by designation of the new name *Apetaenus enderleini* [*nomen novum*]. New remarks and observations on the range of chaetotactic variation as well as on the female abdomen morphology are given. Further, distributional and ecological records from the literature are summarized. A key to the species of *Apetaenus* from the Kerguelen Biogeographical Province is also proposed. The presumed validity of *Apetaenus watsoni* Hardy, 1962 from Macquarie Island is briefly discussed.

Key words: *Apetaenus*, Kerguelen Biogeographical Province, *Apetaenus enderleini* [*nomen novum*], chaetotaxy, morphology, ecology

Introduction

The small archipelagos considered here, viz. Marion (or Prince Edward), Crozet, Kerguelen, and Heard, are located from 46° to 54° south latitude. These strictly isolated, true oceanic, subantarctic islands form archipelagos that are under the influence of a decidedly maritime climate in a cool temperate zone. The subantarctic insect fauna shows a high incidence of endemism and flightlessness. Further, most fully-winged groups with endemic species inhabiting these remote islands provide good examples of advanced wing reduction. The endemic species, such as those considered herein, are presumed to have survived the severe impact of the last glaciation (Kuschel, 1990). As for Apetaeninae, no close affinity with continental relatives has been reported. Therefore, they are a strictly isolated taxonomic group – particularly characterized by cool-tolerance – inhabiting oceanic islands which are considerably typified by the inclemency of the climate.

Oceanic islands are remote from any continental source of colonizing propagules. This leads to the commonly made inference that colonization of such places must ultimately stem from the fortuitous arrival of one or very few “founder” individuals (Mayr, 1963; Carson, 1990), although both arrival and permanent establishment must be extremely rare events (Carson, 1990). A presumptive rapid speciation after such a “Founder Event” might also have taken place in the flies herein treated.