



Revision of the Neotropical genus *Lactistomyia* Melander (Diptera, Hybotidae, Hybotinae)

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Abstract

The genus *Lactistomyia* Melander is revised and include the following eleven species: *L. dimidiata* (Bellardi); *L. hyalia* Bezzi; *L. insolita* Melander; *L. lepida* sp. n.; *L. mammifera* Curran; *L. minuta* sp. n.; *L. nigripes* Curran; *L. paranaensis* sp. n.; *L. pulchra* sp. n.; *L. serrata* Bezzi and *L. tuberculata* sp. n.. Except *L. dimidiata*, all species are described, keyed, male and female terminalia illustrated. *Lactistomyia polita* Melander, a species from Oriental Region, is not congeneric, is being transferred to *Syndyas* Loew and receiving a new name: *Syndyas melanderi* n. nov. The geographical distribution of *Lactistomyia* is just confirmed for the Neotropical region. Drawings of the female terminalia of *L. serrata* are supplied for the first time. The phylogenetic relationships of the included species of *Lactistomyia*, except *L. dimidiata*, are analysed.

Key words: Diptera, Empidoidea, *Lactistomyia*, new species, revision

Introduction

The genus *Lactistomyia* was erected by Melander (1902) based on type species *L. insolita*, from Brazil. It includes large species for the patterns of Hybotinae, reaching up to 7.5 mm length. They are robust, have a densely pruinose body, rigid proboscis with sclerotised labellum without pseudotracheae, hind femur inflated with ventral row of spines inserted on tubercles and hind tibia usually recurved.

Coquillett (1903) synonymized *Lactistomyia* with *Hybos* Meigen and questioned the importance of the characters used by Melander (1902) to erect his genus. *Lactistomyia* was treated as genus by Bezzi (1909) who described two species from Peru, but he suggested that the genus could be a subgenus of *Hybos*. This genus was redescribed by Melander (1928), who described *Lactistomyia polita* from Oriental Region and included the species *L. dimidiata* (Bellardi) that was originally assigned to the genus *Hybos*. Later Curran (1931) described more two species of *Lactistomyia* from Panama. The last contribution to the genus was made by Rafael & Ale-Rocha (1995) who revised the species described by Bezzi (1909)

Specimens of this genus are rarely collected and poorly represented in collections. Nothing is known about the biology of this genus. Collection data indicate that adults are more commonly encountered in open overhead vegetation.

In this study the species of *Lactistomyia* Melander are revised and new species are described. The limits of the genus *Lactistomyia* and its geographical distribution are discussed; new data of distribution of the species are supplied. A key for species, the phylogenetic position of the genus within Hybotinae and a species-level cladistic analysis is also presented and discussed.