



## The immature stages of *Ablabesmyia (Sartaia) metica* Roback, 1983 (Diptera: Chironomidae) with keys to subgenera

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### Abstract

The monotypic subgenus *Sartaia* Roback, 1983 was erected based on the male of *Ablabesmyia (S.) metica* Roback, 1983. The larva and pupa of *A. (S.) metica* are described and figured below, and the male is redescribed. Larvae were collected in ponds in southeastern Brazil where they are associated with aquatic macrophytes. The larvae were reared in the laboratory to obtain associated material of pupa and adults. Keys to larvae and pupae of the four subgenera of *Ablabesmyia* are presented.

**Key words:** Chironomidae, Tanypodinae, *Ablabesmyia*, *Sartaia*, immatures, Brazil

### Introduction

The genus *Ablabesmyia* was erected by Johannsen (1905) for *Tipula monilis* Linnaeus. In their catalogue of Neotropical and Mexican chironomids Spies and Reiss (1996) list eight species of *Ablabesmyia*. Recently two additional species have been described from the region: *A. reissi* Paggi & Suarez, 2000 from Argentina and *A. oliveirai* Oliveira & Gessner, 2006 from Brazil. A third species *A. electrohispaniolana* Grund, 2005 has been described from preserved specimen in amber from the Dominican Republic giving a total of ten extant and one fossil Neotropical species.

Roback (1971) split *Ablabesmyia* in two subgenera, *Ablabesmyia s. str.* and the subgenus *Karelia*. *Ablabesmyia s. str.* has a worldwide distribution, while *A. (Karelia)* is found in all regions except Australia and Antarctica (Ashe *et al.* 1987). When describing *A. metica* from Colombia, Roback (1983) placed it in a new subgenus *Sartaia*. Later Roback (1985) erected the subgenus *Asayia* for *A. annulata* (Say, 1823). *Ablabesmyia (Sartaia)* is only known from the Neotropical region, while *A. (Asayia)* occurs in both the Nearctic and Neotropical regions (Murray & Fittkau 1989).

Although *Ablabesmyia* species are common in the Neotropical region, little is known about their immatures (Trivinho-Strixino & Strixino 2003). *Ablabesmyia (Sartaia) metica* Roback, 1983 was described as adults only and the immatures of the subgenus *Sartaia* have thus so far been unknown. In the present paper, the immatures of *A. (S.) metica* are described based on associated larvae, pupae and adults.

Murray and Fittkau (1989) presented a key for the males of the four subgenera of *Ablabesmyia*. Keys to larvae and pupae of the four subgenera are presented in this paper.