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Two new genera of Phoridae (Diptera) from New Zealand

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Abstract

Two new genera, *Wharia* and *Minicosta*, are diagnosed and specimens of their included species, *W. willcocksorum* and *M. mollyae*, described. The relationships of both genera are unknown, although they do not belong in subfamily Metopininae. Modifications to the latest key to World phorid genera are given to allow identification of the new taxa.

Key words: Phoridae, Diptera, New Zealand, new genus, *Wharia*, *Minicosta*

Introduction

The phorid fly fauna of New Zealand is one of the most distinctive in the world. Originally monographed by Bridarolli (1937) and Schmitz (1939), it contains an extremely high proportion of endemic genera and species. Since Schmitz's work, however, relatively little has been published on this fauna (Borgmeier, 1967a, b; Brown & Oliver, 2007; Disney, 1994a, 2003).

One of us (HO) has been collecting phorid flies for many years, and together we plan to publish the results of this extensive field work. In particular, we will describe the newly discovered taxa that have come to light, including the two new genera described herein.

Methods

Specimens collected into alcohol were dried using the chemical HMDS (Brown, 1993). All specimens are deposited in the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (LACM) and New Zealand Arthropod Collection (NZAC).

Systematics

Wharia n. gen.

(Figs. 1–16)

Diagnosis. Frons lacking medial furrow except for small pit between supra-antennal setae (Fig. 13); one pair of reclinate supra-antennal setae present; ventral fronto-orbital setae absent (Figs. 3, 13). Anepisternum without furrows (= undivided), bare (Figs. 1–2). Scutellum with one large and one small seta (Fig. 4). Wing present in both sexes, vein R_{2+3} absent (Fig. 14). Wing vein Rs with one seta near base only. One alular seta

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