



A review of the soldier flies (Diptera: Stratiomyidae) of Sardinia*

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Abstract

All published records on Stratiomyidae from Sardinia were critically evaluated and extensive, recently collected material (more than 500 specimens) was identified. The present review of the soldier flies from Sardinia includes 27 species. *Nemotelus niloticus* Olivier, 1811 is newly recorded from Europe and Italy, and *Lasiopa pseudovillosa* Rozkošný, 1983 and *Zabrachia tenella* (Jaenicke, 1866) are newly recorded from Sardinia. *Nemotelus brachystomus* Loew, 1846 and *N. leucorhynchus* Costa, 1884 are proposed as new synonyms of *N. notatus* Zetterstedt, 1842. *Beris hyaliniventris* Costa, 1857, the types of which could not be found, is removed from synonymy with *Chorisops tibialis* (Meigen, 1820) and declared as species *incertae sedis*. Brief comments are made on the zoogeography of Sardinian soldier flies.

Key words: Diptera, Stratiomyidae, Sardinia, new synonyms, new records, faunistics, zoogeography

Introduction

The first records of Stratiomyidae from Sardinia were published by Achille Costa (1882, 1883, 1884, 1886). He carried out several collecting trips in southern Italy and Sardinia, set up important collections and described numerous new species of insects (*cf.* Conci & Poggi 1996; Pantaleoni 2005). Unfortunately, his collection was not catalogued and made accessible to subsequent specialists after his death (Pantaleoni 2005). Costa (1882, 1883, 1884, 1886) recorded 15 species of soldier flies from Sardinia, including two new species. Recently (June 2008), the senior author had the opportunity to examine the Costa Diptera collection, which is deposited at Naples in the “Museo Zoologico dell'Università di Napoli Federico II” (*cf.* Maio *et al.* 1995), and found that no types or other specimens of Stratiomyidae collected in Sardinia have been preserved.

The available additional literature records of soldier flies from Sardinia are present in faunistic lists (Röder 1884; Bezzi 1892; Troiano & Toscano 1997; Mason & Rozkošný 2003; Mason 2005; Mason *et al.* 2006), and two species are also mentioned in Lindner (1938). Rozkošný (1982, 1983) recorded several species from Sardinia based on a list kindly provided by Carlo Contini (Cagliari), and on specimens found in collections deposited in the “Museo Civico di Storia Naturale”, Milan and the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg.

All published records were critically evaluated and compared with the extensive, recently collected material. Altogether, 27 species of soldier flies are recorded, with certainty, for Sardinia, three for the first time.