



A new species of the genus *Ablabesmyia* Johannsen from the Neotropics and description of the pupa of *Ablabesmyia bianulata* Paggi (Diptera: Chironomidae: Tanypodinae)

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Abstract

The male, pupa and fourth instar larva of *Ablabesmyia platensis* **sp. n.** from La Plata, Buenos Aires province, Argentina and the pupa of *A. bianulata* Paggi collected in southern Argentina are described and figured. The male adult diagnosis of *A. bianulata* is emended, and the aedeagal complex is redescribed and photographed. Differences in the aedeagal complex and the color pattern of the pupa mainly distinguish these two species. The new species is also compared with the Neotropical *A. oliveirai* Oliveira *et* Gessner.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Ablabesmyia*, new species, taxonomy, Argentina, Neotropics

Introduction

Species belonging to *Ablabesmyia* Johannsen were previously included within Group A of *Pentaneura* Philippi (Edwards 1929), or grouped as a subgenus of the latter genus (Freeman 1955, Roback 1959). The generic status of *Ablabesmyia* was established in the monograph of the European Tanypodinae (Fittkau 1962).

The cosmopolitan *Ablabesmyia* is conformed by four subgenera: *Ablabesmyia* Johannsen, *Asayia* Roback, *Karelia* Roback and *Sartaia* Roback (Roback 1971, 1985; Murray & Fittkau 1989). At present there are 11 species of *Ablabesmyia* known from the Neotropics - eight listed by Spies & Reiss (1996), the remaining three described by Paggi & Añón Suárez (2000), Grund (2005) and Oliveira & Fonseca-Gessner (2006). Four of these were recorded from Argentina: *Ablabesmyia infumata* (Edwards), *A. punctulata* (Edwards), *A. bianulata* Paggi and *A. reissi* Paggi. The first two were originally described by Edwards (1931) as *Pentaneura*.

Ablabesmyia adults are easily identified by the banded legs and cochleariform apex of the gonostylus. However, adults are very difficult to identify at the species level, with a requisite being the use of the aedeagal complex structures to recognize them (Roback 1971, Kobayashi & Kubota 2002).

At present two interesting species were successfully raised to the adult stage from the immatures collected in Argentina. These species belong to the subgenus *Karelia* and much resemble each other in the adult morphology. One of them turned out to be *Ablabesmyia* (*K.*) *bianulata* by comparison with the paratypes deposited in the collection of Instituto de Limnología “Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet”. The species was described by Paggi (1987), based on the male and female adults. The other is an undescribed species which can be distinguished from *Ablabesmyia* (*K.*) *bianulata* by the male aedeagal complex with stout aedeagal blades. Consequently, the diagnosis of *Ablabesmyia* (*K.*) *bianulata* male is here emended, its pupa is described and the new species is presented in all stages.