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Redescriptions of species of *Bryophaenocladius* Thienemann, 1934 (Diptera: Chironomidae) described by Brundin (1947)

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Abstract

Five species of the genus *Bryophaenocladius* Thienemann described by Brundin (1947), *B. aestivus*, *B. flexidens*, *B. inconstans*, *B. propinquus* and *B. scanicus*, are redescribed. Lectotypes of *B. aestivus* and *B. flexidens* are designated.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Bryophaenocladius*, redescriptions, lectotypes

Introduction

Bryophaenocladius is one of the largest genera of the subfamily Orthocladiinae. The genus is distributed worldwide, with the possible exception of Australasia. To date, more than 100 species have been recorded from all over the world (Ashe 1983; Ashe & Cranston 1990; Chaudhuri *et al.* 2001; Freeman & Cranston 1980; Liu & Wang 2005; Sasa & Kikuchi 1995; Spies & Reiss 1996; Wang 2000; Wang *et al.* 2001, 2004, 2006; Yamamoto 2004; Sæther & Spies 2004). The genus is difficult to delimit since there are exceptions for nearly all diagnostic characters. A typical *Bryophaenocladius* has strong and decumbent acrostichals beginning close to antepronotum; wing membrane without setae, but with coarse punctation visible at 40x magnification, squama with one to several setae; tibial spurs strongly developed, with well developed, but not divergent lateral denticles; hind tibial comb well developed; sensilla chaetica absent; tergite IX distinctive, with strongly pigmented, semi-circular band running around posterior margin; anal point projecting from setose area, large, semicircular to triangular; virga consisting of simple spines; gonostylus often distinctly broadened; strong megaseta. However, there are exceptions to nearly all of these diagnostic characters. There are no known *Bryophaenocladius* with minute or very long acrostichals or with acrostichals starting some distance from antepronotum, but *B. psilacrus* Sæther is lacking acrostichals (Sæther 1982). Several species have fine punctation not visible even at 100x magnification and among these *B. faegrii* Schnell has been associated with the immatures. There are several species with bare squama, most of them undescribed, but including about seven Palaearctic and three Afrotropical species (Andersen & Schnell 2000). The tibial spurs may be essentially without lateral denticles as in most Afrotropical species (Wang *et al.* 2001) and thus differ from the typical condition with lateral denticles separated but not as much as in *Chaetocladius* Kieffer. Tergite IX and the anal point may deviate from the typical form and it is the association of those species which are most in doubt such as for instance *B. productus* (Freeman) (Sæther 1973). The virga may occasionally be absent such as in the Afrotropical *B. bicolor* Wang, Sæther *et* Andersen and *B. ruwenzoriensis* (Freeman).

Brundin (1947) described five new species, i.e. *B. flexidens* as *Chaetocladius*, and *B. aestivus*, *B. inconstans*, *B. propinquus* and *B. scanicus* as *Eudactylocladius*. Brundin did not select a holotype of any of these species and normally did not make any permanent preparations. *B. inconstans*, *B. propinquus* and *B. scanicus* were described based on single specimens which thus become holotypes. Based on the syntypes of the other species we select lectotypes and give more complete redescriptions.

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