



Two new Patagonian species of *Atrichopogon* (*Meloehalea*) (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

PABLO I. MARINO¹, ANDREA TÓTHOVÁ² & GUSTAVO R SPINELLI¹

¹División Entomología, Museo de La Plata, Paseo del Bosque s/n, 1900 La Plata, Argentina. E-mail: pmarino@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

²Department of Botany and Zoology, Faculty of Science, Masaryk University, Kotlářská 2, 61137 Brno, Czech Republic.
E-mail: tothova@sci.muni.cz

Abstract

Two new species of the subgenus *Atrichopogon* (*Meloehalea*) from Patagonia, *Atrichopogon* (*M.*) *macrodentatum* from the *Nothofagus* forests, and *A. (M.) monomorphicus* from steppe areas in the ecotone with forests, are described and a key of the Patagonian species of the subgenus is provided.

Key words: *Atrichopogon*, *Meloehalea*, new species, biting midge, Patagonia

Introduction

The diverse biting midge genus *Atrichopogon* Kieffer contains 512 species worldwide (Borkent, 2009). As indicated by Borkent & Picado (2004) found little to no support for distinguishing subgenera based on morphological features of the adults of the Neotropical Region. On the other hand, adults of the subgenus *Meloehalea* Wirth, which includes ectoparasitic species that feed on the haemolymph of blister beetles (Coleoptera: Meloidae) and false blister beetles (Oedemeridae), are distinguished by other authors by their morphological characters such as tarsal ratio (TR), number of mandibular teeth, proboscis length, presence of two well developed spermathecae, etc. (Wirth 1956, 1980, Szadziewski *et al.* 1995, Szadziewski *et al.* 2007, Tóthová *et al.* 2009). The subgenus is represented in the American fauna by 8 species, 4 Nearctic, 2 Holarctic, and the remaining 2 inhabiting Patagonia in the Neotropics (Tóthová *et al.*, 2009).

The purpose of this paper is to describe 2 new species of *Atrichopogon* (*Meloehalea*) recently collected in the Nahuel Huapi National Park, located in northern Argentinean Patagonia and to include them in the provided key for the Patagonian *Meloehalea* species.

Material and methods

The slide-mounted adult male and female specimens of *Atrichopogon* (*Meloehalea*) are housed in the Collection of the Division Entomología, Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLP), and the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa (CNCI), as noted. The material was examined, measured and photographed with a Leica DM5500 compound microscope and a Leica DFC320 digital camera.

Terminology follows McAlpine *et al.* (1981), and special terminology and ratios for *Atrichopogon* follows Borkent & Picado (2004). Terminology for wing veins follows the system of McAlpine *et al.* (1981), with modifications proposed by Szadziewski (1996). The male aedeagus and parameres of most species of *Atrichopogon* are difficult to distinguish and in many taxa, including those of *Meloehalea* species, form a partially fused aedeagal-parameral complex (Borkent & Picado 2004).