

Taxonomic revision of the Amazonian species of *Ropalomera* Wiedemann, 1824 (Diptera: Ropalomeridae)

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Abstract

A taxonomic revision of the Amazonian species of *Ropalomera* Wiedemann, 1824 (Diptera: Ropalomeridae) is presented, based on well-known and new morphological characters, especially of the male terminalia. Eight previously known species are redescribed, with illustrations: *Ropalomera clavipes* (Fabricius, 1805) (lectotype and paralectotypes here designated), *R. femorata* (Fabricius, 1805), *R. glabrata* Prado, 1966, *R. goyana* Prado, 1966, *R. nudipes* Frey, 1959, *R. tessellata* Prado, 1966, *R. tibialis* Walker, 1852, and *R. titillatrix* Steyskal, 1967 (lectotype and paralectotypes here designated). One new species, *R. albifaciata* sp. nov., is described from the type-locality in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil. The nine species can be identified with the dichotomous key provided. *R. glabrata* and *R. goyana* are reported for the first time for the state of Amazonas, and the latter is also reported for the state of Pará. With this study, the number of known species in Amazonia is increased from six to nine.

Key words: Brachycera, male terminalia, distribution, identification key, new species

Introduction

The Ropalomeridae currently comprises 29 species distributed in eight genera, with a predominantly Neotropical distribution, occurring from the southern United States of America to northern Argentina, with a single species known for the Nearctic Region (northern Florida), *Rhytidops floridensis* (Aldrich, 1932) (Steyskal 1967; 1987; Ramírez-García & Hernández-Ortiz 1994). The Amazon region has 19 species recorded, distributed in five genera: *Apophorhynchus* Williston, 1895 (with 3 species); *Kroeberia* Lindner, 1930 (2 species); *Lenkokroeberia* Prado, 1966 (2 species); *Ropalomera* Wiedemann, 1824 (7 species) and *Willistoniella* Mik, 1895 (4 species) (Baéz 1985; Prado & Papavero 2002; 2008; Marques & Ale-Rocha 2004; 2005; Marques-Costa & Ale-Rocha 2005).

Ropalomera is the largest genus of the family, with 15 described species. The type-species *R. clavipes* (Fabricius, 1805) was collected in South America (Steyskal 1967; Ramírez-García & Hernández-Ortiz 1994). In the Amazon region, seven species have been recorded [*R. clavipes*; *R. femorata* (Fabricius, 1805); *R. glabrata* Prado, 1966; *R. nudipes* Frey, 1959; *R. tessellata* Prado, 1966; *R. tibialis* Walker, 1852 and *R. titillatrix* Steyskal, 1967] (Baéz 1985; Prado & Papavero 2002). *R. femorata* is the species with the widest distribution, occurring from Mexico to northern Argentina (Steyskal 1967; Prado & Papavero 2002).

The genus can be recognized by a series of characters, including: size, ranging from 7 to 13 mm in body length; broad, excavated frons; if present, frontal bristles weak; ocellar, postvertical and vertical bristles present; face with well-developed, hemispherical tubercle; arista plumose; wing ranging from hyaline or brownish to distinctly spotted or dark-brown infuscated (Prado 1966; Ramírez-García & Hernández-Ortiz 1994).

Ramírez-García and Hernández-Ortiz (1994) divided the genus into two groups based on morphology of the parameres: The *femorata* Group, formed by species that have parameres with three lobes (one apical and two pre-apical); and the *clavipes* Group, with species that have parameres with two apical lobes.