



***Wuelkerella toncekensis* n. gen., n. sp. (Diptera: Chironomidae: Tanypodinae) from Argentina**

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Abstract

A new chironomid genus *Wuelkerella* is described. Pupae collected from the ultraoligotrophic Lakes Tonček and Jujuy, in Río Negro Province, Argentina were individually reared to adults. Pupa and adult male and female of *Wuelkerella toncekensis* sp. n. show intermediate features of *Alotanypus* Roback, *Brundiniella* Roback and *Radotanypus* Fittkau et Murray.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, *Wuelkerella*, gen. nov., systematics, Neotropical region.

Introduction

Specimens of midges collected by Diego Añón Suárez in two oligotrophic lakes, Tonček and Jujuy in Río Negro Province, west-central Argentina, proved to be near the Macropelopiini genera *Alotanypus* Roback, *Brundiniella* Roback and *Radotanypus* Fittkau et Murray in most features. However, these specimens agreed in all features with none of these genera so a new genus was deemed necessary.

Materials and methods

Pupae were observed in shallow water near the shore line; these were scooped up with a fine meshed dip net and transported to the laboratory where they were individually isolated in shell vials which were then closed with a plug of cotton. Upon subsequent examination over a period of 7 days, reared adults and associated pupae were removed and preserved in 80% ethanol. A first series of material was slide mounted by Mr. John Romine (Rye, CO). A second series from Lake Tonček was slide mounted by Diego Añón Suárez. In the descriptions meristic values are given for the holotype and allotype followed by the ranges and median for paratypes, with the number upon which the value was based following after in parenthesis; with measurable values a mean is given rather than a median. Terminology used follows Sæther (1980).

Systematics

***Wuelkerella* n. gen.**

Type species: *Wuelkerella toncekensis*, by present designation.

Etymology. This new genus is named for Professor Dr. Wolfgang W. Wülker, Universität Freiburg, Germany (retired), an esteemed colleague and friend who has contributed much to the study of Chironomidae.

Diagnosis. Rather small species; wing length 3.0 mm or less. Antenna with 14 flagellomeres, terminal and basal flagellomeres black contrasting with the pale, elongate penultimate flagellomere; terminal 4x as long as wide (Fig. 1). AR about 1.0. Antennal pedicel setose, with 2 setae dorsolateral and 5 ventrolateral. Clypeus with setae