



A new species of *Bezzia* Kieffer from Argentina (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

GUSTAVO R. SPINELLI, MARÍA M. RONDEROS & CARLA G. CAZORLA

División Entomología, Museo de La Plata, CCT La Plata CONICET, Paseo del Bosque s/n, 1900 La Plata, Argentina.

E-mail: spinelli@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar; ronderos@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar; carlacazorla@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract

Bezzia ventanensis Spinelli, a new Neotropical species, is described and illustrated based on pupae and adults. Pupae were collected from muddy water from the edge of a stream margin in Sierra de la Ventana, Buenos Aires province, Argentina. Specimens were carried back to the laboratory and conditioned in vials until adult emergence. This new species is similar to *Bezzia brevicornis* (Kieffer), from which it can be mainly distinguished by the female adult bearing two well developed spermathecae, and by the pupal respiratory organ with 13–15 spiracles.

Key words: *Bezzia ventanensis*, new species, Neotropical, taxonomy

Introduction

The genus *Bezzia* Kieffer is presently known by 313 species worldwide (Borkent, 2011). Borkent & Spinelli (2007), in their catalog of Neotropical Ceratopogonidae, pointed out that this is the most common genus in the tribe Palpomyiini in the region and the second most common predaceous genus after *Stilobezzia* Kieffer. They recorded 46 species, of which 44 were reviewed in a series of papers by Spinelli & Wirth (1989a, 1989b, 1990, 1991).

During a recent entomological survey in the Reserva Natural Parque Provincial Ernesto Tornquist in Sierra de la Ventana, Buenos Aires province, Argentina, a new species of *Bezzia* was collected, which is herein described as adult and pupa.

Material and methods

Pupae were collected with pipette, placing in a white tray muddy water from the edge of a stream margin. Specimens were carried back to the laboratory and they were conditioned in vials, individually, with a drop of water. Observations were done daily, until adult emergence.

Pupae exuviae were slide-mounted in Canada balsam following the technique described by Borkent and Spinelli (2007). Photomicrographs were taken with a digital camera Micrometrics SE Premiun, through Nikon Eclipse E200 microscope. Ink illustrations were drawn with a camera lucida.

For pupal terminology see Borkent and Craig (2001), and the Manual of Central America Diptera (Brown et al., 2009) for adults. Type material is deposited in the Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLPA).

Results

Bezzia ventanensis Spinelli, n. sp.

(Figs. 1–25)

Diagnosis. The only species of Neotropical *Bezzia* in which male and female adults have short palpus, 0–1 spines on fore femur, and lacks distinct leg markings, the female has two well developed spermathecae, and the apex of