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The type specimens of Tachinidae (Diptera) housed in the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Buenos Aires

PABLO RICARDO MULIERI¹, LUCIANO DAMIÁN PATITUCCI¹,
AXEL OSCAR BACHMANN¹ & JAMES E. O’HARA²

¹*Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales, Buenos Aires, MACN. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires.*

E-mail: mulierii@yahoo.com; lpatitu@yahoo.com.ar; bachmann@bg.fcen.uba.ar

²*Canadian National Collection of Insects, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 960 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6. E-mail: james.ohara@agr.gc.ca*

Abstract

The type material of species of Tachinidae (Diptera) housed in the collection of the Entomology Division of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” were examined and are herein documented. The collection contains 202 type specimens consisting of 54 species described by E.E. Blanchard and 12 described by J. Brèthes. Comparison of their original descriptions with the label information reveals the existence of 24 holotypes, 1 lectotype, 141 syntypes and 36 paratypes. Complete information is given for each type, including reference to the original description, label data, and preservation condition.

Key words: Diptera, Tachinidae, types, Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia”, Blanchard, Brèthes

Introduction

Tachinidae comprise about 9,600 described species and are one of the most diverse families of Diptera (Pape *et al.* 2011). This diversity is grouped into four subfamilies and includes more than 1,500 genera (O’Hara 2012). However, many species undoubtedly remain to be discovered especially in the Neotropical Region, where the highest levels of generic endemism were recorded (78%) (O’Hara 2012).

The information concerning type material deposited in institutions is useful for taxonomic and biodiversity research. The compilation of this information has been recommended by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Recommendation 72F.4, ICZN 1999). In the case of tachinids, O’Hara (2008) noted that the catalogue of the Neotropical Tachinidae (Guimarães 1971) lacks primary type data for the included nominal species (number, sex, and depository of holotypes, syntypes, lectotypes and neotypes). The entomological collection of the Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales “Bernardino Rivadavia” (MACN) houses many of the type specimens of Tachinidae described by E.E. Blanchard and J. Brèthes, thus being the greatest repository of type material of this family in Argentina, and represents a significant resource for researchers interested in Neotropical Tachinidae.

Everard Eells Blanchard (1889–1971) was a distinguished figure among Argentinean entomologists and is considered the most significant dipterist of Argentina in the past century. Blanchard was born in the state of Maine, U.S.A. During approximately 50 years of productive scientific work, he published approximately 150 papers including descriptions of numerous species of Diptera. Among them, he published 24 works on Tachinidae and described 121 nominal species of this family during a period of 30 years (1935–1966) (Cortés 1973). Blanchard worked for many years at the “División de Zoología Agrícola, Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería” (Agricultural Zoology Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock) and later (as director) at the “Instituto de Sanidad Vegetal” (Institute of Plant Protection) and formed an extremely large and extensive collection of Diptera.