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Ptychopteridae, a family of flies (Diptera) new to the Philippine Islands with the description of a new species

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Abstract

Ptychoptera (Ptychoptera) noonadani **sp. nov.** is described and is the first record of family Ptychopteridae from the Philippine Islands. A key to males of all *Ptychoptera* species recorded from the Malay archipelago is presented.

Key words: *Ptychoptera (Ptychoptera) noonadani*, phantom crane fly, Malay archipelago, Palawan Island

Introduction

Ptychopteridae (Diptera), with 71 described species, is known to occur in the Palearctic (30 species), Nearctic (12 species), Afrotropical (9 species), Oriental (19 species) and Neotropical (1 species) regions. The family is not known from Australasia and Oceania (Alexander & Alexander 1973; Hancock *et al.* 2006; Kang *et al.* 2012). Two subfamilies are currently recognized: Ptychopterinae, comprised of one genus, *Ptychoptera* Meigen and Bittacomorphinae, including genera *Bittacomorpha* Westwood and *Bittacomorphella* Alexander. To date, 15 species of *Ptychoptera* and 4 species of *Bittacomorphella* have been described from the Oriental region (Alexander & Alexander 1973; Kang *et al.* 2012). In the Malay archipelago, the ptychopterid fauna is of Oriental origin and includes two species: *P.sumatrensis* Alexander, 1936 (Sumatra) and *P.javensis* Alexander, 1937 (Java) (Oosterbroek 1998). Larvae, pupae and adults of Ptychopteridae can be identified to subfamily and genus using identification guides provided by Alexander (1981) and Zwick (2004). Moreover, some species of *Ptychoptera* from the Oriental region can be identified using the key in Alexander (1946). All the Asian species of *Bittacomorphella* can be identified using the key given by Kang *et al.* (2012).

Specimens of Ptychopteridae have previously been collected in southeast Asia from Taiwan, Sumatra, and Java. In the current paper, *Ptychoptera (Ptychoptera) noonadani* **sp. nov.** is described and is the first record of Ptychopteridae for the Philippine Islands.

Material and methods

Specimens were collected during the Danish expedition “Noona Dan” (August, 1961–September, 1962). In the course of the expedition different territories in the Philippine, Bismarck, and Solomon Islands were studied. All material of Ptychopteridae was collected in Malaise traps on Palawan Island. Ptychopterids were collected in two localities: Makagwa, at the foothills of the Mantalingajan Range in mixed vegetation and Pinigisan in one Malaise trap placed about 20 meters inside the rain forest and another in grassy vegetation about 10 meters outside the forest. The sampling localities were completely isolated from lowland biotopes by large areas of primary rain forest. The only persistent fresh water was a small spring with a shallow waterhole beneath and very slow current. For maps, photos of localities, and additional information about “Noona Dan” expedition see Petersen (1966).

Specimens are dried and mounted on pins. Due to originally being collected in Malaise traps, some changes of body coloration may have occurred. The male genitalia and female terminalia were removed from the body and macerated with 10% potassium hydroxide solution and rinsed with distilled water before examination of detailed