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***Tapajos cristinae* gen. n., sp. n. (Diptera: Chironomidae: Chironominae) from the Neotropical region**

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Abstract

A new genus of non-biting midges, *Tapajos* gen. n., is erected for *T. cristinae* sp. n. from the Neotropical region, and placed in the subfamily Chironominae, tribe Chironomini. Adult males are characterized by the combination of bare eyes; antenna with 11 flagellomeres; antepnotal lobes fused medially; fore tibia with inner scale broad and rounded; superior volsella with a long sickle shaped, bare part arising from the distal lateral corner of a globose, densely trichiose base; inferior volsella sub-cylindrical, surpassing the anal point, distally setose and slightly expanded.

Key words: Brazil, *Tapajos*, Neotropical, taxonomy

Introduction

In the early 1960s, the late E. J. Fittkau performed extensive ground-breaking work on the non-biting midges (Diptera: Chironomidae) of the Amazon region (e.g., see Fittkau 1971). Since then, quite many individual studies have been made on Fittkau's and other material (e.g., Fittkau 2001). Nevertheless, published knowledge of the Amazonian chironomid fauna remains fragmentary. Staggering numbers of new species and even new genera have been recognized in existing collections but still await description and classification, and many additional, undiscovered taxa must be expected.

One such case was a single adult male of an unknown genus of Chironomini collected by Fittkau in north Brazil and provisionally recorded as Amazonian genus A 62. Conspecific recent material from the Pantanal Matogrossense in western central Brazil supports the separation of this taxon and allows the following description.

Material and methods

The adults were collected using floating and light traps in western central and northern Brazil, respectively. Specimens examined were slide-mounted in Euparal following the procedures outlined by Pinder (1989). Morphological terminology and abbreviations follow Sæther (1980); measurements were made after Epler (1988). Mensural data are given as ranges, with the number of observed specimens in parenthesis if different from the number (n) stated at the beginning of the description. The type material is deposited in the reference collection of the Laboratório de Ecologia de Insetos Aquáticos (LEIA), Universidade Federal de São Carlos (UFSCar), São Carlos, Brazil, and at the Zoologische Staatssammlung München, Germany (ZSM).