



***Albistyla*, a new genus of Neotropical Limosininae (Diptera: Sphaeroceridae)**

STEPHEN A. MARSHALL

School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1G 2W1. E-mail: samarsha@uoguelph.ca

Abstract

The new genus *Albistyla* is described to include three new species associated with the decaying foliage of fallen trees in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Venezuela. The genus is defined on the basis of male terminalia and diagnosed by the combination of a single pair of strongly cruciate interfrontal bristles, two dorsocentral bristles, and the costa ending at the tip of R_{4+5} .

Key words: Acalypttratae, new species, tree falls, leaf litter

Introduction

The genus *Albistyla* is described for a group of similar, highly distinctive Neotropical species that key out at couplet 55 of the key to Neotropical Sphaeroceridae in Marshall and Buck (2010). *Albistyla* is diagnosed by the combination of a single pair of strongly cruciate interfrontal bristles, two dorsocentral bristles, and the costa ending at the tip of R_{4+5} . It is defined as a monophyletic group primarily on the basis of the unusually modified male sternite 5 and the distinctive white surstylus with broad apical scales. The genus is infrequently collected and only the type species is known from good series. Many of the specimens examined were taken in association with tree falls or similar habitats rich in green leaf litter.

Material and methods

Male and female terminalia were examined after clearing whole abdomens in hot 10% KOH solution and subsequent neutralization in glacial acetic acid. Cleared structures were preserved in glycerin and pinned below specimens in microvials.

Terminology. Morphological terminology follows Marshall and Buck (2010). Tergites and sternites are abbreviated in the descriptions as T and S.

Acronyms of depositories: DEBU (School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada); INBC (Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica); MIZA (Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola Francisco Fernández Yépez; Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay, Venezuela); ROME (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada); QCAZ (Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador).

***Albistyla* new genus**

Type species: *Albistyla spatulisterna* new species

Generic diagnosis. *Albistyla* is characterized by a suite of male abdominal synapomorphies including a white surstylus terminating in a broad, pale, scale-like bristle, an enlarged but simple fourth sternite, and a strongly



FIGURE 15. *Albistyla spatulisterna* female, photograph of mounted specimen.

Literature cited

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