

Review of the subgenus *Geron* (*Geron*) Meigen in the Nearctic Region (Diptera: Bombyliidae: Toxophorinae)

JACK C. HALL^{1,2} & NEAL L. EVENHUIS³

¹ Department of Entomology University of California, Riverside, California 92521, USA.

² Present address: 3064 S. Alta Avenue, Reedley, California 93654, USA.

³ J. Linsley Gressitt Center for Research in Entomology, Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817-2704, USA; email: neale@bishopmuseum.org

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Abstract

The bombyliid subgenus *Geron* (*Geron*) Meigen as it occurs in the Nearctic Region is reviewed. A total of 28 species are found to comprise the subgenus in the Nearctic. The following 16 new species are described and illustrated: *Geron albipilosus* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. borealis* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. confusus* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. cressoni* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. elachys* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. eriogonae* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. halli* Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. infrequens* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. monticola* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. nevadensis* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. notios* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. painteri* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. peucon* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. prosopidis* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, *G. stenos* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.**, and *G. weemsi* Hall & Evenhuis, **sp. nov.** The following are found to be new junior synonyms: *Geron perplexus* Tabet, 2001 = *Geron argutus* Painter, **syn. nov.**, *G. saxosus* Tabet, 2001 = *G. holosericeus* Walker, **syn. nov.**, and *G. antologos* Tabet, 2001 = *G. senilis* (Fabricius, 1794), **syn. nov.**

Key words: Bombyliidae, *Geron*, systematics, Nearctic Region

Introduction

The genus *Geron* Meigen in the Nearctic has not been revised since Painter (1932). In that study, he described ten new species in the subgenus *Geron* and proposed a new subgenus *Empidigeron* to accommodate species of the genus in the Nearctic that had a long second submarginal cell (those of *Geron* s. str. have a short second submarginal cell). Since Painter's work, Bowden (1974) reviewed the species of *Geron* in the Afrotropical Region; Evenhuis (1979) revised the species of *Geron* from Australia and the Pacific; Scarbrough & Davidson (1985) reviewed the Caribbean species; and Greathead (1999, 2001) clarified the taxonomic limits of some Palearctic species.

A large number of new species have been collected in the Nearctic in the intervening seventy years since Painter (1932) and are here summarized with full descriptions and illustrations of male and female genitalic structures. Previous to this study, there were 15 Nearctic species known in the subgenus, primarily from the southwestern United States. This study describes 16 new species, synonymizes three and extends the range of some of the North American representatives of the subgenus *Geron* into southern Mexico and Central America as far south as Guatemala. A total of 28 species of the subgenus *Geron* are