

Revision and cladistic analysis of the Neotropical Genus *Thecomyia* Perty (Diptera: Sciomyzidae)¹

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Abstract

A revision of the genus *Thecomyia* Perty, 1833 and a cladistic analysis are presented. Four species names were previously available: *T. longicornis* Perty, 1833; *T. lateralis* (Walker, 1858); *T. limbata* (Wiedemann, 1819) and *T. trilineata* Hendel, 1932. Herein we designate a lectotype for *T. longicornis*, *T. trilineata* is considered a synonym of *T. lateralis* and nine additional new species are described: *T. abercrombiei*, *T. autazensis*, *T. bonattoi*, *T. chrysacra*, *T. mathisi*, *T. naponica*, *T. papaveroi*, *T. signorelli* and *T. tricuneata*. The cladistic analysis was done using Hennig86 and is based on 21 morphological characters. The analysis was performed using "implicit enumeration" along with "branch and swapping" and resulted in one tree. Two main clades were formed. The first one: (*T. tricuneata* (*T. longicornis* (*T. chrysacra* + *T. signorelli*))) and the second: (*T. autazensis* (*T. papaveroi* + *T. naponica*)) + (*T. limbata* (*T. abercrombiei* (*T. lateralis* (*T. bonattoi* + *T. mathisi*)))).

Key-Words: Neotropical, revision, cladistic analysis, Sciomyzidae, *Thecomyia*

Introduction

Thecomyia Perty, 1833 is a distinctive and easily recognized genus of the family Sciomyzidae, which is more commonly known as snail-killers. The genus is known only from Central and South America and may be readily distinguished from other sciomyzid genera by the following characters: (1) the narrow, conical, and ventrad development of the head, forming a rostrum within which the entire proboscis is retractable; (2) the complete reduction of the palpi; and (3) the strong reduction of most body setae.