

***Distostylus* gen. nov., a monotypic therevine genus (Diptera: Asiloidea: Therevidae) from the Caribbean Island of Dominica**

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Abstract

A new monotypic genus, *Distostylus* Webb (Diptera: Therevidae), based on a new species, *irwini* Webb, is described from specimens collected on the Caribbean island of Dominica. An hypothesis of the placement of the new taxon is generated based on a matrix of 30 morphological characters. This genus is associated with the *Lindneria* genus group and shows some affinities to the amber fossil species *Ambradolon grimaldii* Metz & Irwin.

Key words: genus description, species description, phylogeny, distribution

Introduction

A recent collecting effort on the Caribbean island of Dominica has resulted in the discovery of a new species of Therevinae (Diptera: Asiloidea: Therevidae). The New World therevid species remain one of the more poorly studied and speciose groups among the family and the complete intergeneric phylogeny awaits further elucidation.

This new species shares putative synapomorphies put forth by Metz and Irwin (2000) for the group of therevine species closely related to those in the genus *Lindneria* Kröber. These included the lack of setae on the metanepisternum and the absence of setae on the posterolateral surface of the midcoxae, but most notably is the presence of a slender inner gonocoxal process. The state of setae on the posterolateral surface of the midcoxae has been used historically and extensively to delimit therevid taxa. The remaining New World therevine taxa that lack these setae are part of the tribe Cyclotelini (Gaimari & Irwin 2000). The Cyclotelini are strongly characterized by the fusion of the gonocoxites in the male and by the presence of a furcal bulla in the female, thus excluding the new species from Dominica.