

The South American genus *Nigranitida* Metz (Diptera: Therevidae: Therevinae) with the description of three new species

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Abstract

The genus *Nigranitida* Metz is revised with the description of three new species, *N. gibba* Webb, *N. irwini* Webb, and *N. margaretae* Webb from Argentina. A key to the identification of the four species is included along with illustrations of the genitalia.

Key words: *Nigranitida*, Diptera, Therevidae, stiletto fly, new species, key, morphology, neotropics, Argentina

Introduction

Metz *et al.* (2003:239) erected *Nigranitida* to facilitate the placement of *Psilocephala costata* Wulp (1888:368) and *Psilocephala atra* Kröber (1911:512), two species he determined to be distinctly separate from the species of *Psilocephala sensu stricto*. *Nigranitida* belongs to the subfamily Therevinae based on the presence of appressed lanceolate setae on the hindfemora and the presence of two spermathecae and a spermathecal sac, following the morphological characterizations of stiletto fly subfamilies reported by Winterton *et al.* (2001). Cladistic analyses of therevine genera (Metz 2002:155, Fig. 2.9) placed *Nigranitida* in the *Brachylinga* group, a clade of New World genera (*Ammonaios* Irwin & Lyneborg, *Arenigena* Irwin & Lyneborg, *Brachylinga* Irwin & Lyneborg, *Chromolepida* Cole, *Lysilinga* Irwin & Lyneborg, *Nigranitida*, *Protothereva* Malloch, and *Rhagioforma* Irwin & Lyneborg) with a sister group relationship to the Cyclotelini Gaimari & Irwin. Species in *Nigranitida* share with other genera in the Cyclotelini+*Brachylinga* group clade the absence of an extended, semi-articulated inner gonocoxal process, a state unique to the Cyclotelini+*Brachylinga* group species within Therevinae. Females of *Nigranitida* possess a glossy frons (Fig. 9), a state shared with species of *Chromolepida* Cole, some *Cyclotelus*