

A new species of the genus *Neosilba* (Diptera: Lonchaeidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the genus *Neosilba* McAlpine (Lonchaeidae) is described. This genus has a wide distribution in the Neotropical region and some of its species are considered to be fruit pests, in addition to fruit flies of the family Tephritidae. This genus is also known to have a cryptic complex of species, which makes species belonging to this genus difficult to identify. .

Key words: *Neosilba*, Lonchaeidae, fruit fly, new species, Brazil

Introduction

The species of the genus *Neosilba* (Diptera: Lonchaeidae: Acalypterae) are important pests of commercial fruits plantation, and even some authors have associated them as second invaders of fruits already infested by fruit flies of the family Tephritidae. Our observations have shown that at least some fruits belonging to the family Solanaceae, like *Solanum gilo* Raddi, *Solanum melongena* (L.) are attacked mainly by *N. parva* (Hennig) and *N. zadolicha* McAlpine & Steyskal as primary invaders, causing severe damage to the fruits infested. Araujo & Zucchi (2002) found *N. pendula* (Bezzi) attacking *Malpighia puniceifolia* L., Malpighiaceae, also as primary invader. McAlpine & Steyskal (1982) pointed out that there are many species of this genus that remain to be described.