

Descriptions of genus *Downsiomyia* Vargas (Diptera: Culicidae: Aedini) and its type species *Do. nivea* (Ludlow)

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Abstract

Genus *Downsiomyia* and its type species, *Do. nivea* (Ludlow), are described in detail. The 30 species included in the genus are listed. An extensive list of previous literature pertaining to the genus is provided.

Key words: *Aedes*, *Downsiomyia*, *Finlaya*, Albonivea Group, Nivea Group, *Do. nivea*, mosquitoes

Introduction

Recently, Reinert *et al.* (2004), as a result of cladistic analysis of the tribe Aedini, reinstated *Downsiomyia* Vargas to generic rank for species previously placed in the Niveus Group of *Finlaya* Theobald. These authors proposed extensive changes to the generic classification of Aedini based on the analyses of morphological data from eggs, fourth-instar larvae, pupae, and adults of all previously recognized genera, subgenera, and major groups of the tribe. The very brief original description (in Spanish) of *Downsiomyia* by Vargas (1950) is inadequate for distinguishing generic-level taxa of Culicidae, therefore the genus and its type species, *Do. nivea* (Ludlow), are described in detail below. The genus includes 30 species (listed herein). In accordance with provisions of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999), the terminations of some species names were changed to agree in gender with *Downsiomyia*.