

## A new genus and species of Richardiidae (Diptera) from Hispaniola

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### Abstract

A new genus and species of richardiid flies are described from the Neotropical biotic region (*Johnrichardia* Perez-Gelabert & Thompson, type species, *vockerothi* Perez-Gelabert & Thompson (Dominican Republic)).

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Richardiidae, Neotropical Region

### Introduction

The family Richardiidae is a small group of semitropical to tropical flies restricted to the New World. They are related to the true fruit flies (Tephritidae). What is known of their biology indicates that the maggots are plant feeders or saprophages in decaying plant material (Ferrar 1987). One species (*Melanoloma viatrix* Hendel) has been reported as a pest of pineapple (Peñeranda & Ospina 1995, Martinez *et alia* 2000). Another species (*Epiplatea hondurana* Steyskal) was reported from diseased coconut palm (Steyskal 1958). The family consists of 30 genera and 175 species (Thompson 2004). The last keys to World genera were published by Hendel (1911a, b), although Steyskal (1958, 1987) published keys to the genera found in America north of Mexico. Catalogs have been published by Aczél (1950) and Steyskal (1968). Various authors (Griffiths 1972, Hennig 1958, McAlpine 1989, Korneyev 1999) have published on the phylogenetic relationships of the family and all have placed it among the basal groups of the Tephritoidea. In the most recent and only parsimony analysis (Korneyev 1999), however, the Richardiidae were an unresolved polytomy with respect to the derived (=higher of Korneyev) tephritoids and the more primitive ones (=lower of Korneyev).