

## ***Simulium nunesdemelloi* (Diptera: Simuliidae), a new species of black fly from the northwestern region of Amazonas State, Brazil**

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### **Abstract**

The female, male, pupa, and larva of *Simulium nunesdemelloi* **n. sp.** are described and illustrated. The new species shares characters with species in the subgenera *S. (Thyrsopelma)* and *S. (Trichodagmia)*; the pupa has 19 or 20 gill filaments, similar to the pupa of *S. orbitale* Lutz, which has 21 to 23 filaments. *Simulium nunesdemelloi* **n. sp.** was collected in the Alto Rio Negro region, in the northwestern part of Amazonas State, Brazil.

**Key words:** Aquatic insects, black fly, Simuliidae, Amazonia, Rio Negro

### **Introduction**

The subgeneric classification of the Simuliidae in the Neotropical Region is unstable. One example of this situation concerns the subgenera *Thyrsopelma* Enderlein and *Trichodagmia* Enderlein. Crosskey (1988) considered *Trichodagmia*, *Grenieriella* Vargas & Díaz Nájera, and *Thyrsopelma* as synonymous for inventory purposes because their taxonomy in the Neotropical Region was not fully known. This synonymy has been followed by several authors (e.g., Shelley *et al.* 1997, Luna Dias *et al.* 2004, Hernández *et al.* 2005) and is used in the inventory of world black flies by Crosskey & Howard (2004). However, Miranda-Esquivel & Coscarón (2001) considered both subgenera valid in their phylogenetic analysis. These authors reported that the monophyly of *Thyrsopelma* rests on the hypostoma with the median tooth and sublateral teeth not well differentiated, the larval body integument covered with lanceolate hairs, the female with a simple claw, and the