



Revision of the species of *Elaphropeza* Macquart, 1827 (Diptera: Hybotidae, Tachydromiinae) from Amazon Basin and some remarks about *E. ciliatocosta* (Bezzi, 1904)

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Abstract

Five species of *Elaphropeza* Macquart, 1827 from the Amazon Basin region are recognized here and re-described in order to clarify and update previous descriptions, as well as illustrations: *E. biseticauda* (Smith, 1963), *E. flavida* (Williston, 1896), *E. mazaruni* (Smith, 1963) and *E. similis* (Smith, 1963). Re-description of *Elaphropeza monochaeta* (Bezzi, 1909) **comb. nov.** is updated, presenting characters nowadays utilized in taxonomy of this group. The female of *E. biseticauda* is described and illustrated for the first time and *E. bergonzoii* Raffone, 2000 **syn. nov.** is proposed as junior synonym of *E. flavida*. A key to *Elaphropeza* species from Amazon Basin is provided. Lectotype designation for *E. flavida* was made and geographical records of this species and the Australian species *E. ciliatocosta* (Bezzi, 1904) in the Neotropics are discussed.

Key words: Empidoidea, Hybotidae, *Elaphropeza*, Neotropical region, predacious flies

Introduction

The genus *Elaphropeza* Macquart, 1827 has approximately 200 known species, the majority having been described from the Oriental region, 33 species are described from the Neotropical region, six occurring within Amazonia (Yang *et al.* 2007). They are relatively small predacious flies in the subfamily Tachydromiinae and can be separated from other tachydromiine genera by the following characters: occiput convex, gena not developed, two pairs of ocellar bristles, antennae directed forward, conical postpedicel bearing a distal arista, anepisternum bare, wing with shortened basal radial cell and abdominal intersegmental modifications present between tergites 3–5 or 4–5 (Shamshev & Grootaert 2007). The lack of studies reviewing species leads to some confusion, especially concerning distribution and identification of species.

Material and methods

Material studied was loaned from the following institutions, through the courtesy of its curators: National History Museum, London (NHM); Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden (SMT); Invertebrates Collection of Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazonia, Manaus (INPA); Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo (MZSP); Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ); Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Belém (MPEG) and United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington DC (USNM).