Zootaxa 2490: 47–54 (2010)
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

A new Neotropical species of the genus *Stenochironomus* Kieffer (Diptera: Chironomidae) with wood-mining larvae

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Abstract

A new Neotropical species of the genus *Stenochironomus* Kieffer, 1919 is described and illustrated based on adult male, pupa and larva. The larvae were reared from decayed wood collected in black-water Amazonian streams.

Keywords: Diptera, Chironominae, systematics, aquatic insects, xylophagous, Amazonia, Brazil

Introduction

The Neotropical chironomids are still poorly known, especially those from the Amazon region (Fittkau 1971, 2001). According to Fittkau (2001), the Chironomidae fauna of the Amazon Basin is highly endemic, and the number of species is certainly much higher than what is known to date. In order to contribute to the knowledge of Amazon chironomids, collections have been carried out in connection with a project on the aquatic insect fauna of central Amazonia.

Stenochironomus Kieffer, 1919 is a species-rich genus with a worldwide distribution, occurring in all biogeographical regions except Antarctica. The larvae are easily found mining decayed leaves or wood in freshwater habitats (Cranston *et al*., 1989) ranging from small ponds and swamps to fast-flowing streams and rivers.

Originally no type species was designated (Kieffer 1919). Townes (1945) proposed *Chironomus pulchripennis* Coquillett, 1902 as the type species (Spies & Sæther 2004). According to the catalog of the Neotropical region provided by Spies & Reiss (1996), 24 *Stenochironomus* species had been reported. Since then, three additional species were described (Pinho *et al*. 2005, Andersen *et al*. 2008). Of the 27 Neotropical species, 14 are recorded from the Amazon Basin. The present paper describes one additional species from this region.

Methods

Collections were carried out in streams in Itacoatiara municipality, Amazonas State, Brazil (2ºN, 58ºW) in May 2009. Submerged wood mined by *Stenochironomus* larvae was collected from streams and transported to the laboratory in plastic bags and transferred to aerated aquaria; for further details on rearing techniques see Mendes (2002). After adult emergence, the exuviae were retrieved from the water surface. The larval stage was associated through the fortuitous collection of a pupal exuviae that remained inside the larval skin. Microscopic slides were made using Euparal. The coloration is described based on live and preserved specimens. The phallapodema was not observed, except for one specimen, which had one gonostylus removed and the genitalia mounted sideways, allowing measurement but not illustration in dorsal view. The general

Accepted by W. Gilka: 17 Apr. 2010; published: 1 Jun. 2010