



Four new species of *Saetherocladius* Andersen *et* Mendes from Mata Atlântica, Brazil (Diptera: Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae)

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Abstract

The monotypic genus *Saetherocladius* Andersen *et* Mendes, 2007 was erected based on *S. hirtus* Andersen *et* Mendes, 2007 from southern Brazil. The present paper adds four new species, *S. fusticulus*, *S. fusus*, *S. triangulatus* and *S. urubiciensis*, all from the Atlantic forest in southern and southeastern Brazil. The new species are described and figured as males and the male of *S. hirtus* is redescribed based on additional material. A key to the males of *Saetherocladius* is given.

Key words: Diptera, Chironomidae, Orthoclaadiinae, *Saetherocladius*, new species, key, Neotropical

Introduction

The genus *Saetherocladius* was described by Andersen and Mendes (2007) based on a single male of *S. hirtus* Mendes *et* Andersen, 2007. The genus is distinct by having bare eyes and wing membrane, decumbent acrostichals starting close to antepnotum, slightly lanceolate dorsocentrals and prealars, short, narrow anal point and superior volsella with strong subtriangular projections with single, curved subapical seta. Its closest relative most probably is *Bryophaenocladus* Thienemann, from which it can be separated on the shape of the inferior volsella, the slightly lanceolate setae on the thorax and the strong crista dorsalis. Lanceolate setae on thorax are also found in the genus *Limnophyes* Eaton.

After the genus was described, more material from South and Southeast Brazil has been brought to our attention. In the present article we describe and figure the males of four additional species, and redescribe the male of *S. hirtus* based on additional material. The known range of *S. hirtus* now includes São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro States. A key to the males of *Saetherocladius* is given.

Material and methods

The specimens were mounted on slides in Canada balsam following the procedure outlined by Sæther (1969). The general terminology follows Sæther (1980). The measurements are given as ranges followed by the mean when 4 or more specimens were measured, followed by the number measured (n) in parentheses.

The holotypes and some paratypes of the new species are deposited in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (MZUSP); remaining paratypes are housed in the Department of Natural History, Bergen Museum, University of Bergen, Norway (ZMBN).