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Article



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Systematic position of the monotypic Azorean genus *Falbouria* Dyte with notes on the definition of *Chrysotus* Meigen (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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Abstract

The systematic position and the generic status of the monotypic genus *Falbouria* Dyte (Dolichopodidae: Diaphorinae) are evaluated. The type-species of the genus, *F. acorensis* (Parent), endemic to the Azores, is re-described, and hypopygial and oviscapt morphology illustrated in detail for the first time. *Falbouria* is kept as a separate genus, but close to *Chrysotus* Meigen, which is certainly paraphyletic (or even polyphyletic) in its present composition. A brief discussion on the delimitation of *Chrysotus* is provided and its *laesus*-group of species is suggested as the core clade of the genus.

Key words: Diptera, Dolichopodidae, Diaphorinae, Balfouria, Falbouria, Chrysotus, Palaearctic Region, Azores

Introduction

Parent (1933) proposed the genus *Balfouria* for an endemic Azorean species, *B. acorensis* Parent, based on a single male specimen. He included the species in the Diaphorinae on the basis of its general habitus, strong bristles on the end of abdomen and wing venation, distinguishing it from the remaining genera of the subfamily by the presence of two "postvertical" setae. The genus-group name was later verified to be preoccupied in Mollusca (Crosse 1884) and the replacement name *Falbouria* was proposed by Dyte (1980). Maslova and Negrobov (1996) placed *Falbouria* in the Argyrini (*sensu* Negrobov 1986), as sister to the remainder of the tribe (*i.e.*, the genera *Argyra* Macquart, *Keirosoma* Van Duzee, *Pseudargyra* Van Duzee and *Somillus* Brèthes), a position later endorsed by Grichanov (1998).

Quite recently an unpublished manuscript by C.E. Dyte came to our attention, in which he pointed out that Frey's (1945) treatment of the Azorean Diptera overlooked earlier papers by Parent (1933, 1934). Frey (1945) recorded *Chrysotus xanthoprasius* from the Azores, a species originally described by Bezzi (1906) from Eritrea (Afrotropical Region). Dyte, however, suspected that the species studied by Frey (1945) could actually be *F. acorensis*. We have examined Frey's specimens of "*C. xanthoprasius*", currently in the collection of the Finish Museum of Natural History (Finland), and the holotype of *F. acorensis*, confirming Dyte's suspicion. In this paper, Frey's specimens and additional material of the same species recently collected in São Miguel Island (Azores) were used to re-describe *F. acorensis*, which allowed considering the problem of the systematic position *Falbouria* and the delimitation of *Chrysotus* Meigen.

Material and methods

The morphological nomenclature used here follows mainly Cumming and Wood (2009). Body length was measured from the insertion of the antenna to the apex of the abdomen. Wing length was measured from the base to the apex of the wing, while the width was measured at the widest point of the wing, both given as ranges. Measurements of the podomeres are representative ratios and are given according the formula: trochanter + femur,