



Article

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:4419657E-54B1-45EA-8D4C-8165B0992DA7

The genus *Scatopsciara* Edwards (Diptera, Sciaridae) in New Caledonia, with the description of four new species

PEKKA VILKAMAA¹, HEIKKI HIPPA² & WERNER MOHRIG³

¹Zoological Museum, Finnish Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 17, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland.

E-mail: pekka.vilkamaa@helsinki.fi

²Swedish Museum of Natural History, P.O. Box 50007, SE-104 05 Stockholm, Sweden. E-mail: heikki.hippa@gmail.com

³Puddemin 6, D-18574 Poseritz, Germany. E-mail: wmoehrig@hotmail.com

Abstract

The following species of the genus *Scatopsciara* Edwards, 1927 are recognized from New Caledonia, all newly described: *Scatopsciara* (*Xenopygina*) *exigua* **sp. n.**, *Scatopsciara* (*s.str.*) *spiculata* **sp. n.**, *S.* (*s. str.*) *tenuistylata* **sp. n.** and *S.* (*s. str.*) *vicina* **sp. n.** A key to the species is given.

Key words: Diptera, Sciaridae, *Scatopsciara*, key, new species, Australasian region, New Caledonia

Introduction

The Diptera of New Caledonia have been studied mainly since the late 1980's, and the results have been presented mainly in the seven volumes of *Zoologia Neocaledonica* (Tillier 1988, Chazeau & Tillier 1991, Matile *et al.* 1993, Najt & Matile 1997, Najt & Grandcolas 2002, Grandcolas 2008, 2009). Of the Bibionomorpha, the known New Caledonian fauna includes Bibionidae (Fitzgerald 2004) and some groups of Sciaroidea: Lygistorrhinidae (Matile 1986), Keroplatidae (Matile 1988a), Ditomyiidae (Matile 1988b), Mycetophilidae Mycomyinae, Sciophilinae et Gnoristinae (Matile 1991) and Mycetophilidae Leiinae et Manotinae (Matile 1993). These studies show a high degree of endemism of the New Caledonian dipteran fauna, at least at the species level. However, the level of endemism in New Caledonia is known to vary among insect groups (Chazeau 1993, Cranston 2010). Current knowledge of the insect fauna, especially Diptera, its affinities, possible origin and diversity was recently summarized by Couri *et al.* (2010). This is a continuation of an ongoing study by the present authors of the thus far unknown sciarid fauna of New Caledonia, the genus *Keilbachia* Mohrig (Vilkamaa *et al.* 2011), *Pseudolycoriella* Menzel & Mohrig (Vilkamaa *et al.* 2012a), *Ctenosciara* Tuomikoski (Vilkamaa *et al.* 2012b) and *Bradysia* Winnertz (Vilkamaa *et al.* 2012c) having been treated earlier.

The genus *Scatopsciara* Edwards, 1927 (type-species *Sciara quinquelineata* Macquart, 1834) is a species-rich genus, with about 100 described species worldwide, a large majority from the Palaearctic region. Only two species are known from the Australasian/Oceanian region, *Scatopsciara unicalcarata* Edwards, 1927 from New Zealand (Tonnoir & Edwards 1927, Mohrig & Jaschhof 1999) and *S. nigrita* Hardy, 1956 from Hawaii (Steffan 1989), the former species only by the female. The presence of the genus in the unrevised sciarid fauna of Australia is not known.

Material and methods

Our material originates from samples collected by various French scientists during the late 1980's and early 1990's, preserved in ethanol and obtained from the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (MNHN), Paris, France. The specimens were on microscope slides in Canada balsam, after being treated with creosote and xylol.