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Notes on the taxonomy of the Holarctic *Corynoptera* Winnertz *sensu lato* (Diptera, Sciaridae), with description of six new species

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Abstract

Six new species of *Corynoptera* Winnertz from northern Finland, Japan and North America are newly described and illustrated: *Corynoptera captiosa* sp. n., *C. cracentis* sp. n., *C. inari* sp. n., *C. salmelai* sp. n., *C. spiciforceps* sp. n. and *C. tuomikoskii* sp. n.. *Corynoptera subvariegata* Rudzinski, 1992 is redescribed and *C. perochoeta* (Mohrig & Menzel, 1990) and *C. variegata* Mohrig, 1985 are illustrated and their characters discussed. The new species studied show unusual characters for the genus, and do not fit well into currently defined species groups.

Key words: Sciaroidea, Holarctic region, biodiversity, systematics

Introduction

During the research projects ‘Diversity of the Fennoscandian black-winged fungus gnats (Diptera, Sciaridae)’ and ‘Deficiently known and threatened forest species’ (PUTTE, see Juslén *et al.* 2008), a number of new species for the genus *Corynoptera* Winnertz, 1867 (type species *C. perpusilla* Winnertz) were found in northern Europe (Hippa *et al.* 2010). Some of these species were new to science; others were new records for the geographical area. This work is a continuation of these projects. The main aim of this paper is to increase the knowledge of northern European Sciaridae, by describing new species and re-describing one species of *Corynoptera*. The new species do not fit well into the currently used species groups of *Corynoptera sensu lato* (Menzel & Mohrig 2000), so we have not tried to apply these groups.

Material and methods

All specimens of the new species were found in unsorted sciarid or insect material kept in ethanol. Most specimens were found in Malaise trap samples, but some had been caught by sweep-net or with an aspirator. The specimens were mounted on microscope slides in Euparal, after dehydrating them in absolute ethanol. The terminology and methods of measuring and illustrating structures follow Hippa and Vilkamaa (1991, 1994) and Hippa *et al.* (2003, 2010).

The material is deposited in the following collections: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. USA (USNM), Zoological Museum, Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki, Finland (MZH), Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich, Germany (ZSMC), Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg, Germany (SDEI), private collections of Kai Heller, Heikendorf, Germany (PKHH) and Werner Mohrig, Poseritz, Germany (PWMP).