Zootaxa 3957 (1): 131–136
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

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

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3957.1.11
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:7167DF3D-459F-4918-BD0A-E1F2EE13A8E7

Argentine *Hydrellia* Robineau-Desvoidy (Diptera, Ephydridae): new species and key to identification

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Abstract

Hydrellia egeriae **sp. nov.**, a new species of *Hydrellia* from Campana (34 14' 04 S, 58 52' 32 W) and Hurlingham (3435'14 S, 5838'27 W), Buenos Aires province, Argentina is described. A key to the Argentine *Hydrellia* species is presented.

Key words: *Hydrellia egeriae* **sp. nov.**, Leafminer, Shore-fly, New World, Neotropical Region

Introduction

With more than 200 species worldwide, the shore-fly genus *Hydrellia* Robineau-Desvoidy is the largest of the family Ephydridae (Diptera) (Mathis & Zatwarnicki 1995). Despite the large number of species, many others worldwide await description, as Rodrigues-Júnior *et al.* (2014) recently documented with description of six new species and treatment of seven previously described species from Brazil. Prior to their study, only a single species was known from Brazil. Currently only three species are recorded from Argentina, and we suspect this number greatly underestimates the actual species richness from this country.

Larvae of all known *Hydrellia* species are parasites (leaf- and stem-miners) of aquatic plants, some of these species having considerable economic importance, with potential for pest status and biocontrol of pest plant species (Deonier 1993). Cabrera Walsh *et al.* (2013) conducted experiments in Argentina that dealt to investigate the best candidate to be employed in the biocontrol of the Brazilian elodea, *Egeria densa* Planchon, a submerged macrophyte from South America that has become weedy in several countries and parts of the world, as in North America, Australia, Chile, New Zealand, South Africa, and parts of Asia and Europe. The results indicated an abundant undescribed species of *Hydrellia* as the best candidate for the biocontrol of *E. densa*. The species was found exclusively in *E. densa*, being the only known specialist herbivore of this plant. The objective of this paper is to describe this new species and provide a new taxonomic key to the segregation of the Argentine species of *Hydrellia*.

Material and methods

Eighty dried specimens were obtained from the laboratory colony of the USDA/ARS Exotic and Invasive Weeds Research Unit (EIWRU), Albany, CA. The specimens were mounted on card points. Specimens were deposited at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC., USA (USNM), Museu Nacional (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (MNRJ) and the California State Collection of Arthropods (CSCA), California Department of

Accepted by S. Gaimari: 24 Mar. 2015; published: 13 May 2015