

Description and revalidation of *Mansonia* (*Mansonia*) *fonsecai* (Pinto) (Diptera: Culicidae)

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Abstract

Mansonia (*Mansonia*) *fonsecai* (Pinto 1932) is considered a valid species distinct from *Mansonia indubitans* Dyar & Shannon 1925. Morphological characters to distinguish *Ma. fonsecai* from *Ma. indubitans* are included. The adult female, male, genitalia, pupa, and fourth-instar larva of *Ma. fonsecai* are described and illustrated.

Key words: Culicidae, Culicinae, *Mansonia*, *Mansonia fonsecai*, systematics

Introduction

The tribe Mansoniini is unique in the Culicidae; the larvae are adapted to obtain oxygen from plant tissues. This tribe includes the genera *Coquillettidia* Dyar 1905 and *Mansonia* Blanchard 1901. The genus *Mansonia* contains two subgenera: *Mansonia* Blanchard 1901, with 13 New World species, and *Mansonioides* Theobald 1907, with 10 Old World species (Guimarães 1997) two of which are found in Ethiopia (Ronderos & Bachmann 1963a).

The first and last species descriptions in this group were published in the years 1848 (Walker 1848) and 1976 (Cova-Garcia & Sutil 1976). Since the last description, the subgenus has been little studied and species identification is problematic, especially of the adult females. Distinct individuals have been identified as though they belonged to the same species (Costa Lima 1935, Barreto & Coutinho 1944, Pratt 1953, Belkin *et al.* 1970, Lane 1992). The taxonomy of this group is further complicated because the immature stages and adult females are still unknown and thus undescribed for many species of *Mansonia* (*Mansonia*).