

***Cyrtosathe* gen. n.: the first non-scenopinine window fly from sub-Saharan Africa (Diptera: Scenopinidae)**

SHAUN L. WINTERTON¹ & MARK A. METZ²

¹Address: Plant Pest Diagnostics Branch, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Meadowview Road, Sacramento, California, 95832, USA. Email: swinterton@cdfa.ca.gov

²Address: Research Affiliate, Center for Biodiversity, Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois, 61820, USA. Email: mametz@aol.com

Abstract

An unusual new genus of Scenopinidae is described and figured from Namibia. *Cyrtosathe kirksprigsi* gen. et sp. nov., represents the first record of a non-scenopinine window fly from sub-Saharan Africa. This monotypic genus does not fit well into the current classification of Scenopinidae and is likely an intermediate form between the subfamilies Proratinae and Scenopininae. The phylogenetic position of *Cyrtosathe kirksprigsi* gen. et sp. nov. is discussed with respect to previous studies on Scenopinidae relationships and classification.

Key words: systematics, Asiloidea, Brachycera

Introduction

Scenopinidae are a cosmopolitan group of lower brachyceran flies. Adults are typically small and dark with a body size rarely greater than 5.0 mm. Although found in a variety of habitats, by far the greatest diversity of this group is in arid regions where sandy soils provide a suitable habitat for the larvae. As larvae, scenopinids are elongate, fossorial predators of arthropods in friable soils and leaf litter, although larvae have also been reared from, or suspected of breeding in, a variety of habitats including galleries of wood-boring beetles, birds nests, mammal nest holes, bat caves, beehives and stored products (Kelsey 1969, Rahman *et al.* 1981, Yucel 1988, Gnaspini 1989, Yao & Lo 1992, Dobson 1999). A single case of human urogenital myiasis is recorded for a larva of *Scenopinus* Latreille (Thompson *et al.* 1970), but this case appears to be exceptional. Some adult scenopinids apparently do not to feed (e.g. *Belosta* Hardy), but many are nectar and honeydew feeders and are often collected by sweeping flowers and foliage (Kelsey 1975, 1987). Adults of