



Revision of the New World leafhopper genus *Neozygina* Dietrich & Dmitriev (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Typhlocybinae: Erythroneurini)

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Abstract

The New World erythroneurine leafhopper genus *Neozygina* Dietrich & Dmitriev is revised based on comparative morphological study, and a key for identification of adult males is provided. Twenty-five valid species are recognized, nine of which were previously described and 16 of which are new. One new synonymy is recognized: *Neozygina davisi* (Beamer) equals *N. arida* (Beamer), new synonym. The known range of the genus extends from the U.S.A. to Chile and Argentina.

Key words: *Erythroneura*, *Zygina*, taxonomy, morphology, identification

Introduction

Dietrich and Dmitriev (2006) reviewed the New World genera of the leafhopper tribe Erythroneurini, erecting a new genus, *Neozygina*, to include North American species placed by previous authors in the informal “*Zygina ceonothana* species group” (Young 1952), and following Dworakowska’s (1970) concept of *Zygina* Fieber, which includes only Old World species. Species of *Neozygina* differ from other New World Erythroneurini in having both dorsal and ventral appendages present on the male pygofer, one or more macrosetae just basad of the dorsal appendage on the pygofer margin, and a pair of conspicuous black spots on the crown.

The few available host records indicate that species of the genus feed on shrubs or herbaceous vegetation, including grasses. This habit is unusual for New World Erythroneurini, most species of which appear to feed on trees, but is similar to that of the superficially similar European genus *Arboridia* Zachvatkin and many other Old World erythroneurines.

Although all previously known *Neozygina* species are recorded from North America, the vast majority from the western U.S.A., examination of specimens from North American collections and recent sampling in the Neotropical region indicate that the range of the genus extends southward to Chile and Argentina, and that many species remain undescribed. In this paper, we review the previously described species included in the genus (Dietrich and Dmitriev 2006) and describe 16 new species. More intensive sampling in the Neotropics will undoubtedly reveal additional undescribed species of *Neozygina*.

Morphological terminology follows Dietrich and Dmitriev (2006). Specimens examined are housed in the following collections: Canadian National Collection, Ottawa (CNC); Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign (INHS); U.S. National Museum of Natural History, Washington (USNM); North Carolina State University, Raleigh (NCSSU); Ohio State University, Columbus (OSU); University of Kansas, Lawrence (KU).