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Revision of the austral South American species of *Mortoniella* (Trichoptera: Glossosomatidae: Protoptilinae)

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Abstract

Species of *Mortoniella* are revised for the southern part of the South American continent, including the countries of Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile. The *M. velasquezi* species group is diagnosed for the first time and the *M. bilineata* species group is more critically defined. Males of all species from the region, except *M. armata* (Jacquemart, 1963), are figured, and a key is provided for their identification. Included in the revision are 11 described species and 22 new species. Previously described species that are redescribed and figured include the following: *Mortoniella albolineata* Ul-

mer, 1907; *M. argentinica* Flint, 1974; *M. catarinensis* (Flint, 1974); *M. collegarum* (Rueda & Gibon, 2008); *M. guairica* (Flint, 1974); *M. ormina* (Mosely, 1939); *M. pocita* (Flint, 1983); *M. punensis* (Flint, 1983); *M. teutona* (Mosely, 1939); *M. unota* (Mosely, 1939); and *M. wygodzinskii* (Schmid, 1958). *Mortoniella collegarum*, originally described from Bolivia and Argentina, is here reported from Chile, representing the first distributional record of *Mortoniella* for that country. It is assigned to the *M. ormina* species group. On morphological considerations, *M. argentinica* is removed from the *M. bilineata* species group and left as a species *incertae sedis* as to species group. Based on its overall similarity to *M. argentinica*, *M. spinulata* (Flint, 1991), from Colombia, is removed from the *M. leroda* species group and left as a species *incertae sedis* as to species group. New species of *Mortoniella* described here, followed by their respective areas of distribution, include, for the *M. leroda* species group: *Mortoniella acauda* (SE Brazil), *M. agosta* (SE Brazil), *M. asymmetris* (Paraguay), *M. crescentis* (SE Brazil), *M. dolonis* (SE Brazil), *M. guahybae* (SE Brazil), *M. hystricosa* (SE Brazil), *M. intervalles* (SE Brazil), *M. latispina* (SE Brazil), *M. longispina* (SE Brazil), *M. paraguayensis* (Paraguay), *M. parauna* (SE Brazil), *M. paraunota* (Argentina, SE Brazil), *M. pumila* (SE Brazil), *M. pusilla* (SE Brazil), *M. truncata* (SE Brazil), and *M. uruguaiensis* (SE Brazil, Uruguay); for the *M. ormina* species group: *M. alicula* (SE Brazil); and for the *M. velasquezi* species group: *M. bocaina* (SE Brazil), *M. froehlichii* (SE Brazil), and *M. tripuiensis* (SE Brazil). A new species unplaced as to species group is *M. meloi* (SE Brazil).

Key words: *Mexitrichia*, new species, caddisfly, Neotropics, key

Introduction

This paper represents the second in a series whose ultimate goal is to revise all of the species of *Mortoniella* formerly placed in the genus *Mexitrichia*. The first paper in the series revised the species from Mexico and Central America (Blahnik & Holzenthal 2008). In the same paper *Mexitrichia* was synonymized with *Mortoniella* and a revised generic description was provided for the genus. The described species of *Mortoniella* were placed into 4 species groups, except for 2 species that were left as species *incertae sedis*, including 1 species, *Mortoniella guairica* (Flint, 1974) from the area of coverage of the current paper. The *M. bilineata* species group includes those species placed in *Mortoniella* before *Mexitrichia* was synonymized with it. These 22 species were reviewed by Sykora (1999), including 9 species newly described within the same paper. Sykora "tentatively" placed these taxa into 5 species groups. Only 2 of these species, *M. wygodzinskii* (Schmid, 1958) and *M. argentinica* Flint, 1974, have distributions within the area of coverage for this paper. They were refigured in a recent paper by Rueda & Gibon (2008), treating all of the known species of Protoptilinae from Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. In an initial assessment of the *M. bilineata* species group in our previous paper (Blahnik & Holzenthal 2008), based on an examination of representatives of 4 of the 5 species groups recognized by Sykora, we proposed that the group represents a monophyletic assemblage. Because of this and because of the recent treatment of this group, it was not our original intention to include species of the *M. bilineata* species group in the current paper. However, an examination of *M. argentinica*, type species for the 5th species group recognized by Sykora, revealed that it is distinctly different from other species of the *M. bilineata* species group and was undoubtedly misplaced in this group. This prompted a reevaluation of the entire *M. bilineata* species group, even though the majority of the species in the group do not fall within the area of coverage of the current paper. This reconsideration was based largely on illustrations and descriptions of the species provided in the literature. It reaffirmed the essential validity and homogeneity of the group as a whole, but also suggested that a couple of additional species now placed in the group may be misplaced here. In order to define the *M. bilineata* species group more clearly, we have included a discussion of the characters defining the group, including an illustration of the female of *M. bilineata* Ulmer, 1906. The latter was included because the distinctive morphology of the females of this group has not previously been illustrated. *Mortoniella argentinica* has been removed from the *M. bilineata* species group and for now is left as a species *incertae sedis* as to species group. Character evidence for this decision is included in the species description for this species and also in the discussion of the *M. bilineata* species group. For similar reasons, *M. spinulata* (Flint, 1991), currently placed in the *M. leroda* species group, is also listed as *incertae sedis*, due to its overall similarity to *M. argentinica*. Although the other species that may be misplaced in the *M. bilineata* species group are discussed, their explicit removal is deferred until we have had a chance to examine them.

As a result of the reevaluation of the *M. bilineata* species group, all known species of *Mortoniella* for the austral part of South America, including Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina, and Chile, have been included in the current work, illustrated or reillustrated, described, and treated in the key provided, with the sole exception of *M.*