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Monograph of *Nylanderia* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) of the World, Part II: *Nylanderia* in the Nearctic

ROBERT J. KALLAL¹ & JOHN S. LAPOLLA^{1*}

¹Department of Biological Sciences, Towson University, Towson, Maryland USA 21252

jlapolla@towson.edu

*corresponding author



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ROBERT J. KALLAL & JOHN S. LaPOLLA

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Abstract

The taxonomy of the Nearctic *Nylanderia* fauna is revised. Three new species are established, bringing the total number of native species from the region to 14. The new species are: *N. magnella*, *N. querna*, and *N. trageri*. Several species possess workers that are difficult to distinguish from each other and the presence of males is required for morphological identification. This is particularly the case with *N. vividula* and *N. terricola*. Two subspecies are synonymized: *N. vividula mjobergi* is considered a junior synonym of *N. vividula* and *N. vividula antillana* is considered a junior synonym of *N. guatemalensis*. At least five *Nylanderia* species have been introduced to the Nearctic region, including: *N. bourbonica*, *N. flavipes*, *N. fulva*, *N. pubens*, and *N. steinheili*. Another species, *N. guatemalensis*, is also included because its wide distribution across the Caribbean and Central America suggest it could become introduced to the Nearctic region. Identification keys are provided for the workers of native and introduced species and the males of native species. Distribution maps are provided for native and introduced species. Photomontage images are provided for the worker of each introduced species and all castes of the native species.

Key words: ant, genus-group, *Paratrechina*, *Prenolepis*, North America, taxonomy

Introduction

The Nearctic *Nylanderia* fauna is perhaps the best known of the world's *Nylanderia* species. Descriptions from this region date back over 100 years, and include the first description of a *Nylanderia* species (*N. vividula*). The relatively recent revision by Trager (1984) was instrumental in organizing the disparate records from across the Nearctic. Extensive museum collections of *Nylanderia* add to the base knowledge of the regional fauna.

The fauna in the Nearctic region is comprised of 14 native species and 5 introduced species. This constitutes a relatively small percentage of the *Nylanderia* species of the world (LaPolla *et al.*, 2011a). In the Nearctic, observed worker morphological variation lies primarily in overall setation and pubescence patterns. Although most species have relatively sparse pubescence on the mesosoma, this is variable, and introduced species may be broadly recognized by the presence of denser mesosoma pubescence. Males are typically pubescent on the dorsum and queens are uniformly pubescent, as is common in *Nylanderia* queens from other parts of the world. Cephalic pubescence varies greatly across the species, from virtually absent to being very dense. Coloration ranges from what is perhaps the palest ant in the world, *N. phantasma*, to dark brown, as in *N. parvula*. Hues of brown and