Zootaxa 4000 (3): 392–396
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4000.3.6
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:CD5EA747-98ED-40E0-ADD7-8E815144E160

A new Neotropical genus of Blastini (Psocodea: 'Psocoptera': Psocidae: Amphigerontiinae)

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Abstract

A monotypic genus of Psocidae (Amphigerontiinae: Blastini) from Santiago de Cali, Colombia, is here described and illustrated. It differs from *Chaetopsocidus* Badonnel, from the Páramo de Monserrate, near Bogotá, in having setae on the forewing veins.

Key words: Taxonomy, neotropics, Psocidae, Amphigerontiinae, Blastini, Colombia

Introduction

Recent explorations of the Neotropical fauna of psocopterans, have revealed a significant number of new taxa (García Aldrete & Mockford 2009; García Aldrete 2011; González Obando *et al.* 2013; Sarria *et al.* 2014), both at the generic and specific levels (García Aldrete *et al.* 2012; García Aldrete *et al.* 2014; Román-P *et al.* 2014). The subfamily Amphigerontiinae (Psocidae) is one of the most morphologically diverse, it includes 21 genera, mostly described from outside the Neotropical region. The Neotropical Psocidae appear to be quite rich, and examination of specimens in collections, or recently collected, often leaves us with doubts about the assignment of some specimens in the known genera, leading sometimes to the creation of new genera (*cf.,* for example the recently described *Elaphopsocoides* Román *et al.,* 2014).

The phylogenetic relationships of Amphigerontiinae have been discussed and are still subject of debate (Li 2002; Yoshizawa & Johnson 2008). Intuitive proposals (Li 2002) are subjective and likely to establish groups based on homoplasic characters, resulting from parallel and independent evolution, common in Psocidae, probably due, to its wide geographical distribution. Other methods, derived from phylogenetic approaches (Yoshizawa & Johnson 2008; Yoshizawa 2010; Yoshizawa *et al.* 2011) tend to be more objective, allowing the recognition of monophyletic groups supported by synapomorphic characters, therefore avoiding the formation of non-natural groups and improving the predictability of the phylogenetic proposal.

Although the division of Amphigerontiinae into the tribes Amphigerontini and Blastini has been proposed by both of the above currents (Li 2002; Yoshizawa & Johnson 2008; Yoshizawa 2010), it is still uncertain the phyletic condition of Amphigerontiini, and more work is required to discern its status. The tribe Blastini is more stable to phylogenetic considerations, and is usually regarded as a monophyletic lineage. In this paper, we describe a new monotypic genus of Amphigerontiinae, tribe Blastini, found in southwestern Colombia, which we were unable to assign in any of the known genera of Blastini.

 Accepted by L. Mound: 22 Jul. 2015; published: 17 Aug. 2015