Article

ZOOTAXA

Towards the systematics and diversity of Neotropical *Tanytarsus* van der Wulp (Diptera: Chironomidae): news from Colombia

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Abstract

Our study pertains to the systematics and diversity of non-biting midges of the genus *Tanytarsus* van der Wulp, 1874 from the Neotropical region and in particular, Colombia, a country scarcely studied for these dipterans to date. Adult male specimens collected from the Colombian Llanos and Andes biomes belong to five species described as new in the present paper: *Tanytarsus colombiensis* **sp. nov.** (placed in the *caipira* species group, here defined), *T. germani* **sp. nov.** and *T. gnomon* **sp. nov.** (both placed in the *curvicristatus* group, here defined), *T. lulu* **sp. nov.** (in the *ligulatus* group, here defined) and *T. meta* **sp. nov.** (the *riopreto* group). Also an illustrated brief redescription of the adult male of *T. hastatus* Sublette *et* Sasa, 1994 is provided. After reclassification of *Caladomyia* Säwedal, 1981, the name accepted as a junior synonym of *Tanytarsus*, several species names became homonyms, thus they are here proposed to be replaced with substitute names, as follows: *Tanytarsus reiffi* **nom. nov.** *pro Tanytarsus reissi* (Reiff, 2000); *Tanytarsus sanseverinoi* **nom. nov.** *pro Tanytarsus angelae* Trivinho-Strixino *et* Shimabukuro, 2017; *Tanytarsus trivinhostrixinoi* **nom. nov.** *pro Tanytarsus fittkaui* Sanseverino *et* Trivinho-Strixino, 2010. *Rheotanytarsus breda* (Roback, 1960) **comb. nov.** is excluded from *Tanytarsus*. An annotated checklist of Neotropical *Tanytarsus*, with 89 species, is also presented.

Key words: Andes, Llanos, aquatic insects, non-biting midges, *Tanytarsus*, new species, new names, checklist, Neotropics

Introduction

The Colombian fauna is considered megadiverse, with one of the largest number of species per unit area and endemic species in the world (Arbelaez-Cortes 2013). The family Chironomidae (non-biting midges), one of the most abundant and diverse family of Diptera, has only 33 species in 18 genera and three chironomid subfamilies recorded thus far from Colombia (Contreras-Lichtenberg 1988, Mendes & Pinho 2014; Ospina-Torres *et al.* 2018; Dantas *et al.* 2019). However, Colombia, with its great environmental heterogeneity, probably is home to a rich and diverse fauna of non-biting midges, most of which remain unknown.

Tanytarsus van der Wulp, 1874 is currently the second most diverse genus of Chironomidae, comprising nearly 400 species distributed worldwide (Lin *et al.* 2018, Roskov *et al.* 2019, present authors' inventory). It is well represented in the Neotropical region with over 80 species described and named prior to the present paper (see Table 6 and references therein). Despite the great diversity of the genus, only *Tanytarsus curvicristatus* has been recorded for Colombia so far (Contreras-Lichtenberg 1988, Mendes & Pinho 2014).