

**Description of a female of *Forcipomyia (Pedilohoelea) eremita*  
(Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) from Yemen**

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**ABSTRACT.** A female of *Forcipomyia eremita* SZADZIEWSKI, GWIZDALSKA-KENTZER & GILKA, 2011 of the subgenus *Pedilohoelea* DE MEILLON & WIRTH, 1980 is described for the first time.

**KEY WORDS:** Diptera, Ceratopogonidae, *Forcipomyia*, Yemen.

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INTRODUCTION

In the subgenus *Pedilohoelea* 18 species are known, all recorded in the warm climate of the Neotropical, Afrotropical and Australasian regions (DEBENHAM 1987, BORKENT 2012). Species of this subgenus probably take part in the pollination of cocoa flowers and other crop plants (DE MEILLON & WIRTH 1980). Only *Forcipomyia eremita* (SZADZIEWSKI et al. 2011), described from males collected in the United Arab Emirates, has been reported from the southern region of the Middle East. Among biting midges collected from Yemen, we identified an unknown female of that species. The description follows.

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MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens of *F. eremita* (3 females, 1 male) were collected in Yemen by Dr Antonius van Harten (12 km NW of Manakhah, 24.06-04.08.2003, Malaise trap).

They were preserved in 70% alcohol, dissected and mounted on slides in a mixture of phenol and Canada balsam, as described by SZADZIEWSKI (1985). The material is housed in the collection of the Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk.

Specimens examined: 3 females, 1 male, Yemen, 12 km NW of Manakhah, 24.06-04.08.2003, Malaise trap, leg. A. van Harten.

#### DESCRIPTION

##### *Forcipomyia (Pedilohelea) eremita*

*Forcipomyia (Pedilohelea) eremita* SZADZIEWSKI, GWIZDALSKA-KENTZER & GILKA, 2011: 638 (♂, United Arab Emirates).

##### **Female**

Similar to male with the usual sexual differences. Head yellowish. Eyes bare. Flagellum length 0.64-0.69 mm, AR 0.77-0.86. Proximal flagellomeres 2-12 cylindrical, gradually increasing in length (Fig. 2). Fourth and fifth palpal segments fused. Third palpal segment slightly swollen in basal half, sensory pit shallow, with few sensilla capitata, length 0.068-0.072 mm. Palpal ratio 2.6-3.0. Thorax brownish. Wings uniformly yellow, length 1.11-1.25 mm, CR 0.32-0.37. Small first radial cell present. Legs yellow. Tarsal ratio of fore leg TR (I) 1.45, TR (II) 0.78-0.80, TR (III) 0.83. Two unequal, large, ovoid seminal capsules present, neither one with a neck; the larger one 0.182-0.197 mm x 0.098-0.136 mm, the smaller one 0.106-0.139 mm x 0.076-0.091 mm.

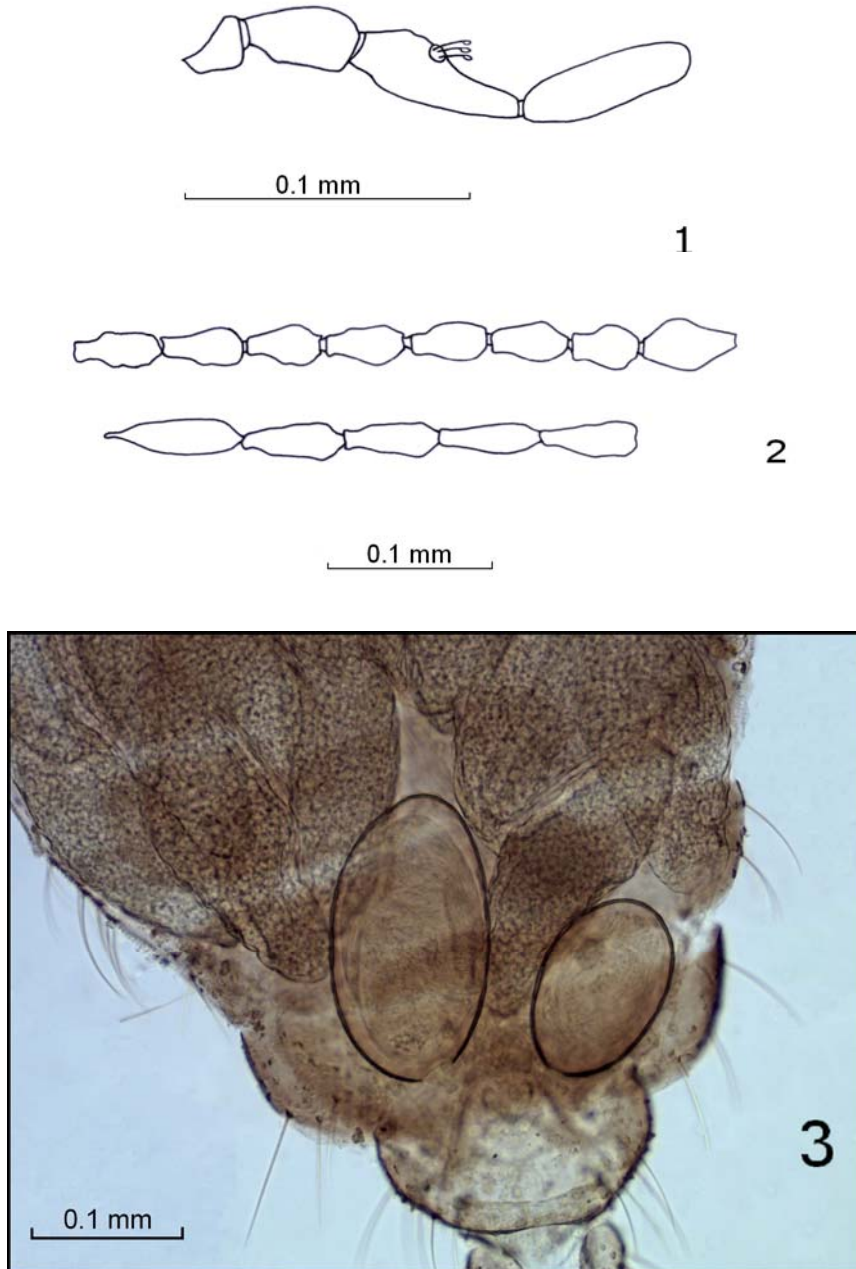
#### DISCUSSION

In contrast to the known females of the subgenus *Pedilohelea*, the female of *Forcipomyia eremita* is characteristic in having two large and unequal seminal capsules. The seminal capsules of other known females in this subgenus are equal and about 2-3 times smaller than those of *Forcipomyia eremita*. The fourth and fifth palpal segments are completely fused, as in most species of this subgenus.

The species was known from the United Arab Emirates. From Yemen is reported for the first time.

#### REFERENCES

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**Figs 1-3.** Female of *Forcipomyia eremita* SZADZIEWSKI, GWIZDALSKA-KENTZER & GILKA, 2011.  
1 – palpus, 2 – flagellum, 3 – seminal capsules.

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