

New Findings of Species of the Tribe Palpomyiini (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) in Argentina

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■ **ABSTRACT.** New findings in Argentina of the following five species of the tribe Palpomyiini are reported: *Amerohelea pseudofasciata* Grogan and Wirth and *Bezzia venustula* (Williston), in the Somuncurá plateau in Río Negro province; *Bezzia chilensis* Ronderos and Spinelli, in western Río Negro and Salta provinces; *Bezzia fluminensis* Lane, in northern Corrientes province; and *Clastrieromyia uruguayensis* Spinelli and Grogan, in La Pampa province.

KEY WORDS. Argentina. Records. *Amerohelea*. *Bezzia*. *Clastrieromyia*.

■ **RESUMEN.** Nuevos Hallazgos de Especies de la Tribu Palpomyiini (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) en la Argentina. Se informa acerca de nuevos hallazgos en la Argentina de las siguientes cinco especies de la tribu Palpomyiini: *Amerohelea pseudofasciata* Grogan and Wirth y *Bezzia venustula* (Williston), en la meseta de Somuncurá en la provincia de Río Negro; *Bezzia chilensis* Ronderos and Spinelli, en el Oeste de las provincias de Río Negro y Salta; *Bezzia fluminensis* Lane, en el norte de la provincia de Corrientes; y *Clastrieromyia uruguayensis* Spinelli and Grogan, en la provincia de La Pampa.

PALABRAS CLAVE. Argentina. Registros. *Amerohelea*. *Bezzia*. *Clastrieromyia*.

The tribe Palpomyiini includes medium or large-sized midges of the family Ceratopogonidae. Females are predaceous, preying on small soft-bodied insects, while immatures inhabit a great variety of aquatic and semiaquatic environments.

The following six genera are recognized within the tribe: *Amerohelea* Grogan and Wirth (exclusive for the Americas), *Bezzia* Kieffer (cosmopolitan), *Clastrieromyia* Spinelli and Grogan (exclusive Neotropical), *Pachyhelea* Wirth (exclusive Neotropical), *Palpomyia* Meigen (cosmopolitan) and *Phaenobezzia* Haeselbarth (cosmopolitan). Except for *Palpomyia*, the species composition and when applicable, the supraspecific arrangement of these genera are well known in the Neotropics through a series of relatively modern revisions: Grogan and Wirth (1981) for *Amerohelea*, Spinelli and Wirth (1989a, 1989b, 1990, 1991) for *Bezzia*, Spinelli and Grogan (1986) for *Clastrieromyia*, Grogan and Wirth (1980) for *Pachyhelea* and Spinelli and

Wirth (1986) for *Phaenobezzia*. Further information may be found in Dippolito *et al.* (1995), Spinelli (1987, 1989, 1996) and Spinelli and Ronderos (2001).

The aim of this contribution is to report new findings from Argentina, some of them notorious, of one species belonging to *Amerohelea*, three to *Bezzia* and one to *Clastrieromyia*. The recorded specimens are deposited in the collection of the Museo de la Plata, Argentina.

Amerohelea pseudofasciata Grogan and Wirth

Amerohelea pseudofasciata Grogan and Wirth, 1981: 1286 (female; southeastern Brazil, northeastern Argentina).

New record. Argentina, Río Negro prov., So-

muncurá plateau, Estancia "El Rincón", 30-XI/3-XII-1999, J. Muzón, 2 females, Malaise trap.

Distribution. Argentina (Misiones, Río Negro), Brazil (Goias, Santa Catarina).

Remarks. The genus *Amerohelea* is known by 12 species distributed in tropical and subtropical areas in the Neotropics with only one, *A. frontispina* (Dow and Turner), reaching the U.S.A from California to Texas, while the southernmost recorded species is *A. similis* Spinelli from Mocoqueta in Corrientes province. The presence of *A. pseudo-fasciata* in the Somuncurá plateau contributes to the hypothesis about the relictual character of several components of its biota, particularly for those species belonging to Paranaense lineages, as it was recently suggested by Muzón *et al.* (2002).

***Bezzia chilensis* Spinelli and Ronderos**

Bezzia chilensis Spinelli and Ronderos, 2001: 752 (female, male; Chile).

New records. Argentina, Río Negro prov., El Bolsón, 28-XI-1999, G. Spinelli, 1 female, at light; Salta prov., Cachi, 18-I-2000, G. Spinelli, 1 female, swept net.

Distribution. Argentina (Río Negro, Salta), Chile (Valparaíso).

Remarks. *Bezzia chilensis* was previously known only from its type locality in Valparaíso, Chile. The two records herein provided are the first ones from Argentina, significantly enlarged northward and southward its distributional range.

***Bezzia fluminensis* Lane**

Bezzia fluminensis Lane, 1948: 236 (female; Brazil); Lane, 1958: 31 (male; Brazil); Spinelli and Wirth, 1989a: 111 (redescrip.).

New records. Argentina, Corrientes prov., Colonia Pellegrini, 1/7-XII-2000, M. Coscarón, 2 females, 1 male, Malaise trap; Corrientes, 10 km W Santo Tomé, 9-IX-2002, G. Spinelli, 2 females, swept net.

Distribution. Argentina (Corrientes), Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, Brasília).

Remarks. These are the first records of *B. fluminensis* from Argentina. The species was previously known from its type-locality in Rio de Janeiro, and

from Brasília.

***Bezzia venustula* (Williston)**

Ceratopogon venustulus Williston, 1896: 278 (female; St. Vincent, Trinidad).

Bezzia concoloripes Macfie, 1940: 31 (female; Guyana); Lane, 1958: 26 (in key).

Bezzia venustula: Lane, 1958: 27 (in key); Spinelli and Wirth, 1991: 7 (synonymy; redescrip.; distrib.).

New records. Argentina, Río Negro prov., Somuncurá plateau, Estancia "El Rincón", 29-I-1999, P. Marino, swept net; same data except 30-XI/3-XII-1999, J. Muzón, 6 females, Malaise trap.

Distribution. From Mexico to Argentina.

Remarks. *Bezzia venustula* is a widely distributed species, previously known in Argentina from Pocitos in Salta province, nearby Bolivia. The biogeographic importance in connection with the finding of this species in the Somuncurá plateau is similar to the one pointed in the case of *Amerohelea pseudo-fasciata*.

***Clastrieromyia uruguayensis* Spinelli and Grogan**

Clastrieromyia uruguayensis Spinelli and Grogan, 1986: 458 (female; Uruguay); Spinelli, 1987: 160 (Argentina record).

New record. Argentina, La Pampa prov., Pedro Luro, I-2000, C. Storti, 6 females, at light.

Distribution. Argentina (Corrientes, La Pampa), Uruguay.

Remarks. This species was previously known from Uruguay and from the neighboring Argentinian locality Monte Caseros in Corrientes province.

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