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DESCRIPTION OF THE FIRST SOUTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF *STENOPOGON* LOEW (DIPTERA, ASILIDAE)

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ABSTRACT

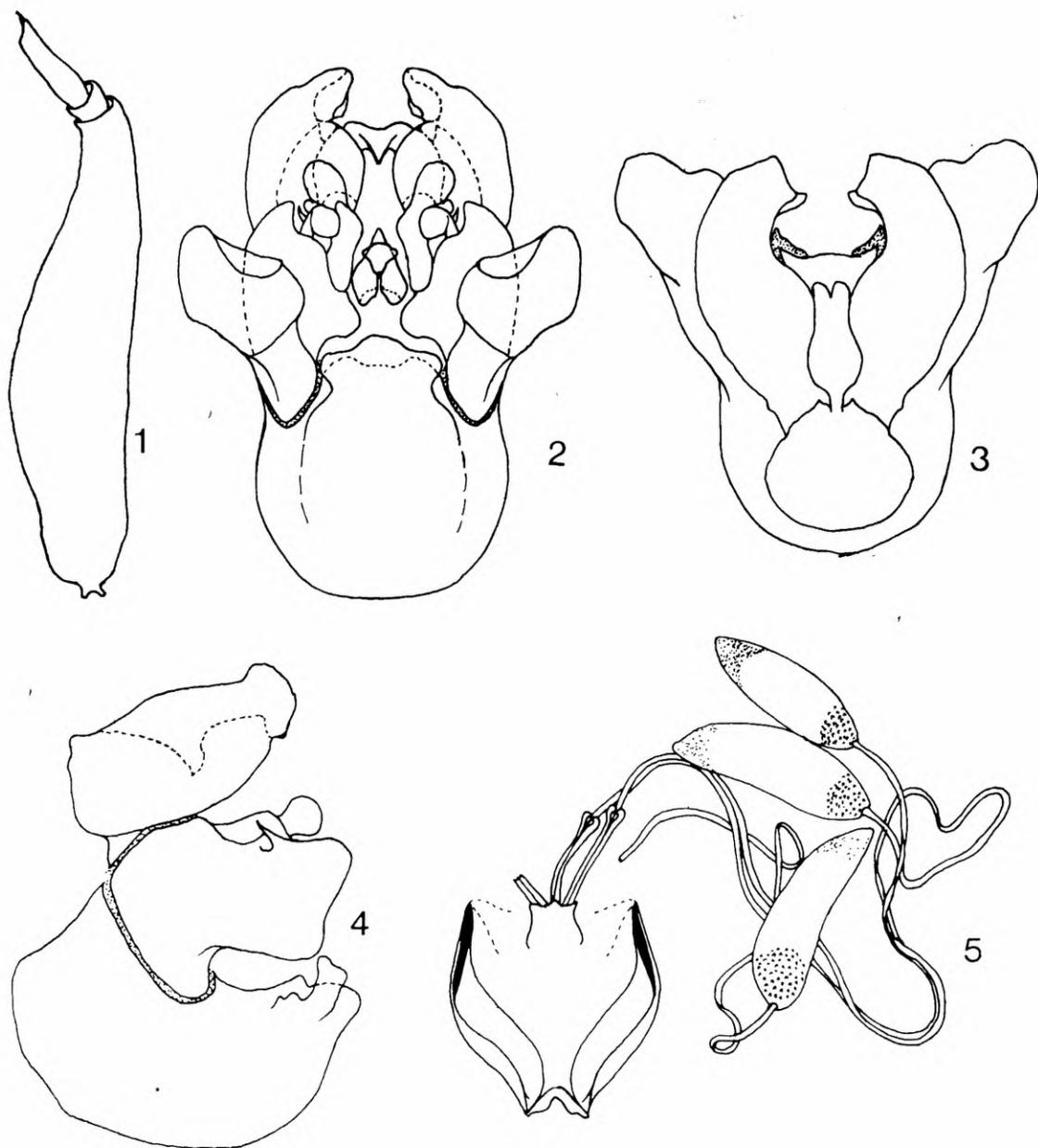
A species of Stenopogon Loew, 1866 (Asilidae, Stenopogonini) is described from South America for the first time. It is a large (30-32 mm) species, from Rio Negro, Argentina, characterized by the reddish humeri and the pale reddish brown basal half or two-thirds of the tibiae. Illustrations of the third antennal segment and of the male and female genitalia are included.

Stenopogon rionegrensis, sp. n.

Male-Length: 30 mm; wing length: 25 mm.

Head black; face dark reddish tomentose; vertex dark reddish pollinose; front and occiput dark reddish pollinose; vestiture white; first and second antennal segments dark reddish brown, second darker; segment 3 reddish black basally and reddish brown distally, the bristle-like style dark basally and reddish brown apically; segment 3 slightly longer than the two proximal segments, style subequal to or shorter than segment 1 (Fig. 1); mystax yellowish white, occupying half the distance between the oral margin and the base of the antennae; hair of the face yellowish white, lighter than the mystax; antennal hairs dirty yellowish white; bristles of front, ocellar tubercle and occiput yellowish white; palpi black, segment 2 slightly shorter and thicker than segment 1, with yellowish white hairs; proboscis black dorsally, reddish ventrally, with a few short hairs in the apex.

Thorax reddish laterally, black dorsally, sparsely white pollinose; posterior margins of mesothoracic scutum grayish pollinose; mesonotum densely covered with yellowish white hairs, except in a longitudinal central stripe (which is divided in two by a narrow line of hairs), and in two lateral spots, beginning in the middle of mesonotum and ending in front of the postallar calli; humeri and notopleura reddish; a triangular reddish spot present on each side of the mesothoracic prescutum, its base lying on the humerus border and the apex extending towards the lateral bare spots; scutellum black pollinose with six strong marginal white bristles; pleura black pollinose, pteropleura with posterior border reddish, mesepimeron black, with a reddish center and long



Stenopogon rionegrensis, sp. n.: 1, third antennal segment; 2, male genitalia, ventral view; 3, same, dorsal view; 4, same, lateral view; 5, female spermatheca.

yellowish white bristle; metapleura reddish; halteres yellowish red to reddish brown.

Abdomen black, sparsely white pollinose; posterior borders of tergites sometimes slightly reddish; sternites dark reddish brown; vestiture white to yellowish white; genitalia (Figs. 2-4) dark reddish brown, almost black, with yellowish white hairs.

Wings clear, veins reddish brown, subcosta clearer, almost yellowish brown, the same as R_s ; fourth posterior cell closed and petiolate, anal cell narrowly open; length of fourth posterior cell petiole and opening of anal cell variable.

Legs: coxae black tomentose, femora reddish, in some specimens more reddish ventrally; basal one-half to two-thirds of tibiae yellowish brown, the apex reddish brown; tarsi reddish brown, slightly lighter than distal portion of tibiae; basal half of claws reddish, distal half black; pulvilli pale yellowish brown; vestiture white to dirty yellowish white; vestiture of first tarsal segment of anterior tarsi generally golden; bristles white or yellowish white.

Female: very similar to the male; sternites IV, V, VI and VII with a larger amount of reddish; genitalia as in Fig. 5.

Type-material: Holotype ♂, from Río Colorado, Río Negro Prov., Argentina, 14.XI.1946 (K. Hayward & A. Willink), 4 ♂ and 4 ♀ paratypes, same data as holotype, 1 ♂ and 4 ♀ paratypes, Río Colorado, Río Negro Prov., Argentina, XII.1930, and 1 ♂ paratype, Chos-malal, Neuquén Prov., Argentina, 17.XII.1966 (L. E. Peña), deposited in the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo; 1 ♀ paratype, from Lamarque, Río Negro Prov., Argentina, XII.1959 (Fritz), in the Instituto Central de Biología, Universidad de Concepción, Chile.

TAXONOMIC DISCUSSION

This is the first description of a South American species of *Stenopogon* Loew. Martin & Papavero (1970) mention an undescribed new species of this genus, from Ecuador, in the collection of the British Museum (Natural History), London; this specimen from Ecuador was misidentified by Carrera (1953) as *S. californiae* Walker.

Stenopogon rionegrensis, sp. n., is somewhat similar to *S. arnaudi* Martin (1968), in the absence of bristles or hairs on the metapleura before the halteres, and in the mystax, which extends halfway the distance between the oral margin and the base of the antennae. However, *S. rionegrensis* is a much larger species, and bears many other additional differences with the Mexican species of *Stenopogon* (cf. Martins, 1968). It is not at all related, on the other hand, to any of the United States species of the genus, as described by Bromley (1937). The general coloration of the body in *S. rionegrensis* varies within narrow limits, but there is one male specimen almost completely pale reddish brown, with whitish to golden vestiture.

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