Nicaraguan Pipunculidae (Diptera): new records and description of new species

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Abstract

Six hundred and ten Nicaraguan pipunculid specimens were studied. Twenty-three species and eight genera are reported and geographical distribution presented. One species, Tomosvaryella subvirescens (Loew) was previously recorded. Fifteen new distribution records and seven new species are described and illustrated: Elmohardyia nicaraguensis Rafael, Eudorylas maesi Rafael, E. platyapodemalis Rafael, E. subvexus Rafael, E. trichosubepandrialis Rafael, Dasydorylas vulcanus Rafael and Tomosvarylla crassa Ale-Rocha. Three species of Neotropical Eudorylas are transferred to the genus Dasydorylas Skevington: D. eremita (Hardy), n. comb., D. nigellus (Rafael), n. comb., and D. regalis (Curran), n. comb.

Key words: Diptera, Nicaragua, Pipunculidae, Taxonomy

Introduction

Pipunculidae, or big-headed flies, are distinctive, but inconspicuous, relatives of the Syrphidae (hover flies). Over 1,300 species have been described worldwide and it is estimated that well over 2,000 species exist (Skevington & De Meyer 2004). The Mexican, Central American and West Indies fauna have been revised by the senior author since 1986 and all papers concerning are referred by Rafael (1996) and Rafael & Menezes (1999). Only one species was represented in the Nicaraguan fauna, Tomosvaryella subvirescens (Loew), collected in Chinadega and examined by Ale-Rocha (1996). Nicaraguan fauna certainly presents high diversity as confirmed by this taxonomic study, based upon the pipunculid collection that we received from Dr. Jean-Michel Maes, Museo Entomológico de León (MEL), Nicaragua. The specimens were collected mainly at Mombecho volcano with Malaise trap in the following localities: El Progreso, in a coffee crop that uses agrochemicals; Santa and San Joaquín in an organic coffee crop (no agrochemicals) and El Progreso,