AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES
Number 1029
New York City May 29, 1939

FOUR NEW SPECIES OF SOBAROCEPHALA (DIPTERA: CLUSIIDAE)

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The species of this genus are rather numerous in the American tropics and almost all collections contain representatives of new forms. Some of the species vary considerably in color markings of the thorax and it is not always safe to assume that forms are different unless several specimens of a species are available. The types of the new species are in the Museum collection.

Sobarocephala lanei, new species

Wings grayish; the apical third brownish; arista thickly plumose. Length, 4.5 to 5 mm.

Male.—Head reddish yellow, the front shining, with almost parallel sides; cheeks and facial oribtes pale yellow; hair and bristles brown, the pile on the lower half of the occiput yellow; ocellar dot black. Third antennal segment large, brown above; arista black, thickly plumose, especially toward the base; hair on second segment yellow.

Thorax reddish yellow, the dorum darker and shining; mesonotum with a broad black vitta on each side, extending from near the anterior margin to the scutellum, each vitta broadened on the posterior half and sometimes longitudinally divided behind the base of the wings by a rusty reddish stripe. Scutellum black with the middle broadly yellow; bristles and hair brown, but there may be some yellowish hairs on the mesonotum. Mesonotum never black.

Legs reddish yellow; posterior four tibiae, and sometimes the front pair, brownish; tarsi reddish, the anterior pair brown except basally. Hair black, yellow on the coxae, broad bases of the femora, and on the anterior surface of the front pair; middle femora with a row of anteroverentral bristles on the apical half and a complete row on the posteroventral surface.

Wings grayish; brown on the apical third. Squamae with brown border and fringe. Halteres whitish.

Abdomen shining blackish above, the broad base, venter and genitalia reddish yellow. Genitalia of medium size. Hair and bristles black, pale on the venter.

Female.—Middle femora without bristles below; ovipositor pale.

Types.—Holotype, male, allotype, female, and paratypes, five males and three females, Ponce, Matto Grosso, Brazil (J. Lane).

This species differs from bivittata Melander and Argo in having the black mesonotal vittae entire and not interrupted behind the suture.

Sobarocephala isla, new species

Mostly black and brown; head rusty reddish. Length, 4 to 4.5 mm.

Male.—Head rusty reddish, the parafacials more yellowish; hair and bristles black; front with a rectangular, transverse shining area on the upper half; ocellars weak. Arista black, loosely short plumose.

Thorax black or brown; mesonotum shining, broadly rusty reddish in front, with a pair of similarly colored vittae extending back to the posterior calli outside the dorsocentral rows and an incomplete median vitta; propleura yellowish. Hair and bristles black; two lateral scutellars.

Legs blackish; coxae, apices of the femora and the posterior four tarsi yellowish. Hair black; the posteroventral bristles on the middle femora short and weak.

Wings brown with less than the basal third hyaline, the veins yellow basally. Squamae obscure yellowish, with brown fringe. Halteres pale yellow.

Abdomen black, the basal two segments, base or all of the genitalia and the basal half of the venter yellow. Hair black.

Female.—The middle and posterior femora are very broadly reddish yellow basally and apically; apical half of second abdominal segment blackish; ovipositor yellow.

Types.—Three specimens from Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone; holotype, male, January 9, 1929; allotype, female, December 25, 1928; paratype, male, January 7, 1929 (Curran).

The differently marked thorax and more extensively brown wings distinguish this species from annulata Melander and Argo.

Sobarocephala annulata Melander and Argo


Two males and one female, Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone, December 22, 1928, and January 5, 7, 1929 (Curran).
Sobarocephala subfasciata, new species
Rather similar to concinna Williston, but the wings have a very broad grayish median fascia extending back from the costa to the fifth vein. Length, 3.5 mm.

Male.—Head black, the face and cheeks whitish; front with parallel sides, sub-opaque; hair and bristles black. Proboscis and palpi yellow. Antennae yellow, the third segment pale brown above; arista black, short ciliate.

Thorax black, with brown hair and bristles; one or two small lateral setae on the scutellum.

Legs reddish yellow, the coxae whitish; posterior tibiae and the front tarsi brown. Hair black, pale on the coxae and bases of the femora.

Wings brown, with the basal fourth or less hyaline; across the middle with a very broad grayish fascia extending from the costa to the fifth vein, not covering the anterior crossvein, but extending over the posterior crossvein. Squamae and fringe yellow. Halteres pale yellow.

Abdomen shining brown with short, appressed black hair and bristles.

Types.—Holotype, male, and paratype, male, Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone, January 5, 1929, and February 13, 1929 (Curran).

Sobarocephala diversipes, new species
Differs from related species by the presence of a large lunulate reddish marking on each side of the mesonotum in front of the suture. Length, 3 to 3.5 mm.

Male.—Head yellow, the front shining reddish brown with a yellow spot on each orbit at the vertex; sides of front slightly converging above; ocellars very weak. Occiput with a brown spot below the upper angle of each eye. Hair and bristles black except on the antennae and lower occiput. Arista black, with short, rather sparse rays.

Mesonotum, scutellum, and metapleura black or brown, the metanotum pale reddish brown. Mesonotum with a large, reddish lunula on each side in front, beginning just inside the humerus and curving inward to end behind the inner ends of the suture. Pleura pale yellow; bristles and hair of the mesonotum black; scutellum with two lateral setae.

Legs rusty reddish, the coxae and basal half or more of the femora whitish; posterior tibiae brownish; hair black, pale on the coxae and basal half of the femora; posteroventral bristles on middle femora yellowish, weak on the apical half, absent in the middle and represented by three longer bristles near the base.

Wings pale brown, the base slightly paler. Squamae with brown border and fringe. Halteres pale yellow.

Abdomen brown, the basal segment brownish red. Hair and bristles black.

Female.—Ovipositor yellow.

Types.—Three specimens from Barro Colorado Island, Panama Canal Zone: holotype, male, January 7, 1929, allotype, female, February 14, 1929, and paratype, female, February 21, 1929 (Curran).