



A review of the flower fly genus *Ornidia* Lepeletier & Serville (Diptera: Syrphidae) with the description of a new species from Brazil

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Abstract

Ornidia Lepeletier & Serville is an endemic New World genus that now comprises five described species. The genus is reviewed and *Ornidia therezinhae* sp. n. is described and figured from Brazilian Amazon. A key to all species is provided.

Key words: Hover flies, Eristalinae, Cyclorhapha, Neotropical Region, Brazil

Introduction

The family Syrphidae, commonly called flower flies or hover flies, has a worldwide distribution and consists of about 6,000 described species with representatives occurring in all zoogeographical regions (Thompson *et al.* 1976, Thompson 2008). The Neotropical region is by far the richest with more than 1,600 species belonging to 60 genera (Thompson 1999), but a large fraction of this fauna remains uncollected and undocumented.

The genus *Ornidia* Lepeletier & Serville comprises medium to large flies (2.3–4.2 mm) with green or purple metallic colors, except *O. whiteheadi* Thompson that shows a distinctive coppery iridescence abdomen; and they look like superficially some blowflies (Calliphoridae) or orchid-bees (*Euglossa*).

According to Thompson (1991, 2008) *Ornidia* is a member of the tribe Volucellini and the genus can be characterized mainly by following synapomorphy: notopleuron greatly enlarged and produced posteriorly and face with medial and two sublateral tubercles. *Ornidia* may be separated from other Neotropical syrphids by using the key to the genera of Neotropical Syrphidae in Thompson (1999).

The genus *Ornidia* is an endemic New World group and is represented by four described species: *O. obesa* Fabricius is widespread in Americas and has spread extensively in the Pacific and across the Orient to the east coast of Africa by human activity; *O. major* Curran and *O. aemula* Williston are little common, however, with an ample distribution; *O. whiteheadi* is known by only specimens collected in Panama and Colombia (Thompson 1991, Whittington and Rotheray 1997, Morales and Köhler 2004). Four species are known from Brazil, *O. obesa*, *O. major* and *O. aemula* and the new species described below (Thompson *et al.* 1976, Thompson 1991, Val 1972). A key to Brazilian species can be found in Curran (1930), Val (1972), Thompson (1991) and, Morales and Köhler (2004).

The species *O. obesa* is well adapted to human-made alterations whereas the other remaining three species are linked with forested environments. The larva of *O. obesa* occurs in impacted environments, such as sewage, liquid excrement and putrid matter in general (Thompson 1991, Whittington and Rotheray 1997). The non-synanthropic breeding sites recorded from *O. obesa* and *O. major* are decaying fruits and vegetables, and exuding tree sap (Rotheray *et al.* 2005). *O. whiteheadi* have been found associated with wastes of