

Revisionary notes on *Chonocephalus* Wandolleck (Diptera: Phoridae) with keys to species of the Holarctic Region

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Abstract

The minute flies of the sexually dimorphic genus *Chonocephalus* Wandolleck, with its flightless females and winged males, has long been in taxonomic chaos through more than half the species having been described from one sex only. The previously known species are reviewed, two formerly misidentified species are described and named *C. marginatus* sp. nov., from India, and *C. collini* sp. nov., from the Seychelles. Eleven new synonyms are proposed. Two species are declared to be *species indeterminata*, 6 lectotypes and 2 neotypes are designated. The genus *Epichonocephalus* Schmitz is synonymised with *Chonocephalus*. The 43 previously recognised species are thus reduced to 32. Numerous undescribed, and frequently misidentified, species are present in museum collections. As a start to providing new keys to the species of each Biogeographic Region, keys to males and females of the Holarctic Region are provided.

Key words: Diptera, Phoridae, *Chonocephalus*, new species, new synonyms, key, Holarctic Region.

Introduction

The tiny scuttle flies of the genus *Chonocephalus* Wandolleck are noted for their sexual dimorphism, with the females being flightless but the males being normally winged. Many species breed in ripe fruits, while some exploit other sources of fermenting detritus or plant material, and the males transport females to suitable larval pabula during nuptial flights (Disney, 1994). However, of 42 hitherto named species only a third are known in both sexes. Most casual collectors seem unaware of the sexual dimorphism in this genus and consequently have tended to collect only one sex. The naming of undescribed species on the basis of one sex only created the current taxonomic chaos. For this reason a further six species from Sulawesi, only known in the female sex, were given code letters only