



Four new Neotropical species of *Stilobezzia* (*Acanthohelea*) Kieffer (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

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Abstract

The subgenus *Stilobezzia* (*Acanthohelea*) Kieffer is newly recorded from several provinces of northern Argentina and Paraguay, and the following four new species are described, and illustrated: *S. (A.) guarani*, *S. (A.) monopicta*, *S. (A.) paranaense* and *S. (A.) xerophila*. These species are compared with similar congeners.

Key words: Ceratopogonidae, *Stilobezzia* (*Acanthohelea*), new species, northern Argentina, Paraguay

Introduction

Stilobezzia Kieffer is a large and diverse genus of Ceratopogonidae, worldwide in distribution. The adult females are important predators on other small insects, and the immature stages are found in a wide variety of aquatic and semiaquatic habitats, including streams, lakes and ponds margins, puddles, swamps, rice fields, rock pools, and tree holes (De Meillon & Wirth, 1991; Cazorla et al., 2006).

The subgenus *Stilobezzia* (*Acanthohelea*) is represented in the Neotropical region by 19 species that have been described from Paraguay (Kieffer, 1917), Brazil and Guyana (Macfie, 1940), Brazil (Lane, 1947), Panama (Lane & Forattini, 1956, 1958), French Guiane (Clastrier, 1991) and the remaining nine from Argentinean and Chilean Patagonia (Ingram & Macfie, 1931; Cazorla & Spinelli, 2007).

During the past 15 years, several collecting trips to northern Argentina and Paraguay have yielded specimens of *Stilobezzia* (*Acanthohelea*) deposited in the Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLP). The study of this material revealed the presence of four unknown species which are herein described and illustrated.

Material and methods

Specimens were slide mounted in Canada balsam, examined, measured and drawn using a binocular compound microscope with attached camera lucida. Terms for structures follow those in the Manual of the Nearctic Diptera (McAlpine et al. 1981). Terms for wing veins follow the system of the Manual of Nearctic Diptera, with modifications proposed by Szadziewski (1996). Photomicrographs were taken with an Olympus digital camera X-845 through a Laboval 4 (10×).

The holotypes and paratypes of the new species are deposited in the collection of the División Entomología of the Museo de La Plata, Argentina (MLPA).