

NOTA CIENTÍFICA

The subgenus *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) in Argentina and Paraguay (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

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El subgénero *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) en la Argentina y Paraguay (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

■ **RESUMEN.** Se registra por primera vez para la Argentina a *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) *amnigena* (Macfie) y a *Stilobezzia* (*E.*) *elegantula* (Johannsen) para la Argentina y Paraguay. Se reconoce a *Stilobezzia subsessilis* Kieffer como sinónimo menor de *S. elegantula*.

PALABRAS CLAVE: *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*). Argentina. Paraguay. Nuevos registros. Sinonimia.

■ **ABSTRACT.** *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) *amnigena* (Macfie) is recorded for the first time from Argentina, and *Stilobezzia* (*E.*) *elegantula* (Johannsen) from Argentina and Paraguay. *Stilobezzia subsessilis* Kieffer is recognized as a junior synonym of *S. elegantula*.

KEY WORDS: *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*). Argentina. Paraguay. New records. Synonymy.

Predaceous midges of the genus *Stilobezzia* Kieffer are common inhabitants of aquatic environments but are often overlooked because of their small size (1-3 mm) (Wirth & Spinelli, 1992). Borkent & Wirth (1997), in their World catalog of Ceratopogonidae, mentioned four subgenera of *Stilobezzia*: the cosmopolitan *Acanthohelea* Kieffer and *Stilobezzia* Kieffer, with more than 300 described species; *Debenhamia* Wirth and Grogan, known by two Australian species; and *Eukraiohelea* Ingram and Macfie, with 14 described species from Africa, America and southeastern Asia.

The subgenus *Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) is presently known in America by four species: *S. (E.) amnigena* (Macfie), distributed from southeastern USA to northeastern Brazil, doubtly in Jamaica and Puerto Rico; *S.(E.) dorsofasciata* (Lutz), from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; *S. (E.) elegantula* (Johannsen), from USA to Panamá, doubtly in Puerto Rico; and *S. (E.) subsessilis* Kieffer, from Paraguay. According to its original description, the later is very similar to *S. (E.) elegantula*. However, in the revision of the New World species of the subgenus (Wirth & Spinelli, 1992), and due to the lack of material from Paraguay

and the wide gap in distribution from that of *S. elegantula*, *S. subsessilis* was regarded as *species inquirenda*, not as a junior synonym.

The purpose of this paper is to report findings of *S. (E.) amnigena* and *S. (E.) elegantula* in northeastern Argentina and/or neighbouring sites of Paraguay, significantly enlarging the distribution of both species, and to propose the synonymy of *S. (E.) subsessilis* under *S. (E.) elegantula*. Accurate descriptions and illustrations of both species may be found in Wirth & Spinelli (1992).

Stilobezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *amnigena* (Macfie)

Eukraiohelea amnigena Macfie, 1935: 56 (female; Brazil).

Stilobezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *amnigena*: Lane & Forattini, 1958: 203 (comb.; Jamaica); Lane & Forattini, 1961: 84 (in key); Wirth & Spinelli; 1992: 346 (redescr.; distr.).

Stilobezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *elegantula*, in part, misident: Wirth, 1953: 62 (male descr.; figs.); Wirth & Grogan, 1981: 78 (male descr.; figs.).

Distribution. U.S.A (Florida, South Carolina), ? Jamaica, ? Puerto Rico, Brazil (Maranhão), Argentina (Corrientes).

New Records. ARGENTINA: Corrientes, Ituzaingó, 22-V-1996, G. Spinelli, CDC light trap.

Remarks. The examined male, unless damaged, clearly shows typical characters of *S. amnigena*: tergite 9 with apicolateral processes, distal portion of parameres long, slender and separate from basal apodemes, and gonostylus stout, swollen in mid portion.

***Stilobezzia* (*Eukraiohelea*) *elegantula*
(Johannsen)**

Bezzia elegantula Johannsen, 1907: 109 (female; U.S.A., Kansas).

Probezzia elegantula: Malloch, 1914: 137 (comb.).

Parabezzia elegantula: Malloch, 1915: 359 (comb.).

Parabezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *elegantula*: Johannsen, 1934: 345 (notes; status).

Eukraiohelea elegantula: Johannsen, 1943: 781 (comb.).

Stilobezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *elegantula*: Wirth, 1953: 62 (in part, female; comb.; redescr.; distr.); Wirth & Grogan, 1981: 78 (in part, female; redescr.; figs.); Wilkening *et al.*, 1985: 525 (in part, female; Florida records); Wirth & Spinelli, 1992: 343 (redescr.; distr.).

Stilobezzia (*Eukraiohelea*) *maculitibia*: Lane & Forattini, 1956: 207 (female, male; Panama); Lane & Forattini, 1961: 84 (in key); Wirth & Spinelli, 1992: 344 (syn.).

Stilobezzia subsessilis Kieffer, 1917: 311 (female; Paraguay); Lane & Forattini, 1961: 88 (subgeneric position); Wirth & Spinelli, 1992: 348 (*sp. inquer.*). NEW SYNONYM.

Distribution. U.S.A (Kansas and Louisiana to Maryland and Florida), Panamá, ? Puerto Rico, Paraguay (Itapua), Argentina (Chaco, Misiones).

New Records. ARGENTINA: Chaco. Parque Nacional El Chaco, 11/13-X-1982, G. Spinelli, 1 male, at light; **Misiones:** Posadas, 7-III-2001, G. Spinelli, 1 female, CDC light trap; **PARAGUAY. Itapua,** Aguapey, 10/11-V-2000, A. Ortiz-D. López, 1 male, CDC light trap; same data except 10-VIII-2000, G. Spinelli, 1 male; same data except 1/2-XI-2001, 1 female, 1 male.

Remarks. The detailed examination of the specimens here reported allows us to recognize that their characters are identical to the ones used by Kieffer (1917) in the original description of *S. (E.) subsessilis*, and consequently that this species is a junior

synonym of *S. (E.) elegantula*. The type of *S. (E.) subsessilis*, formerly deposited in the Musée National Hongrois de Budapest, was destroyed by fire.

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