Superfamily ANISOPODOIDEA

16. Family ANISOPODIDAE

By B.V. Peterson

The family Anisopodidae is a primitive group consisting of small to moderately sized flies (2 to 18 mm) with narrow, elongate bodies and long, slender legs. The head has 3 ocelli in both sexes and moderately long antennae. The wings often show patterns of dark markings. Adults can be found near larval habitats and in other moist places, near the edges of woods and forested areas, and often on slime fluxes of wounded trees. Males form mating swarms and females oviposit on almost any moist surface. The amphipneustic larvae are slender, fusiform, and vary from ca. 10 to 20 mm in length. They are saprophagous and occur in moist, decaying, or fermenting organic matter. Larvae of Sylvicola have been reported in cases of intestinal and urinogenital myiasis (see Smith & Taylor 1966, Morris 1968). Pupation occurs in the larval habitats without the formation of a cocoon. Pharate adults actively wriggle to the surface for emergence.

This family has had an unsettled history both taxonomically and nomenclaturally. Some of its species have been assigned to various families including the Tipulidae, Bibionidae, and Mycetophilidae, it has contained species now assigned to other families, and some of its current species have previously appeared under 1 or more of 5 family names.

The Anisopodidae, although a small family, are widely distributed. The family consists of 6 genera with ca. 100 described species in the world fauna. Four genera and 13 species have been described from the area covered by this catalog. A number of additional species from the area remain unidentified or undescribed (Osten Sacken 1881a; Edwards 1928d; Joyce 1959; Colless & McAlpine 1970; Macfarlane 1979; Colless, pers. comm.). Pratt & Pratt (1980) divided the 5 North American species of Sylvicola into 2 subgenera, Sylvicola and Anisopus. A modern revisionary study is needed to determine if the species of Sylvicola listed in this catalog should be assigned to one or both of these subgenera.


Subfamily ANISOPODINAE

Genus OLBIOGASTER Osten Sacken


insularis Tonnoir, 1923b: 504. Lord Howe I.

Genus SYLVICOLA Harris

SYLVICOLA Harris, 1780: 100. Type species: Sylvicola brevis Harris, 1780 [= Tipula finestralis Scopoli, 1763], des. Coquillett, 1910: 610.


ANISOPUS Meigen, 1803: 264. Type species: Anisopus fuscus Meigen, 1804 [= Tipula fuscata Fabricius, 1775], des. Coquillett, 1910: 507. [Anisopus originally proposed without included species; designation by Coquillett is of the first of 2 species placed in the genus by Meigen, 1804: 103.]
Family ANISOPODIDAE

RHYPHUS Latreille, 1804: 188. Type species: Tipula fenestralis Scopoli 1763 (as "fenestrarum"), mon. cinctus Fabricius, 1787: 333 (Rhagio). West Germany; Hawaiian Is; Canary Is, St. Helena, Europe, N Africa.
	succinctus Gmelin, 1790: 2866 (Musca; unjust. n. n. for cinctus Fabricius).


hellwigi de Meijere, 1913b: 315 (Rhyphus). Indonesia (Irian Jaya); PNG (PNG); Indonesia (Java). N. comb.

maculipennis Wulp, 1885a: 14 (Rhyphus). Indonesia (Java); Indonesia (Maluku); Oriental Reg.

neozelandicus Schiner, 1868: 49 (Rhyphus). NZ (NZ); Australia (SA, Tas, Vic), NZ (Auckland Is). N. comb.


phaleratus Hutton, 1874: 165 (Rhyphus). Nomen nudum.

phaleratus Kirby, 1884a: 269 (Rhyphus). Not given [NZ]. N. syn.

notatus Hutton, 1902b: 191 (Rhyphus). NZ (NZ); NZ (Auckland Is). N. comb.


Subfamily MYCETOBIINAE

Genus MESOCHRIA Enderlein


Genus MYCETOBOIA Meigen


Undetermined spp – New Caledonia (New Caledonia) (Matile, in litt.).