78. Family MILICHIIDAE

By Curtis W. Sabrosky

Milichiid flies are small and inconspicuous, usually black, often dull or subshining but sometimes highly polished. Males of some species have silvery abdomens that flash brilliantly in the sun as they dance in swarms. Larvae are sapro- or coprophagous. There are numerous rearing records from manure, compost heaps, decaying plant material, birds' nests, and carrion. Some species are easily spread in commerce and have become virtually cosmopolitan (e.g., Desmometopa m-nigrum). In the Neartic and southern Neotropical regions some species are associated with ants. Some of these species breed in detritus deep in the nests of leafcutting ants (Atta spp.). Adults of some species are phoretic commensals on predatory insects, riding on them and sucking juices that exude from the victims. Although many species have been described from the Australasian/Oceania Regions, little is known of their biology.

Scattered specimens of a number of genera indicate that much comprehensive revisionary work needs to be done in the area covered by this catalog and the adjacent parts of the Oriental Region. The only modern work available is the revision of the world species of Desmometopa (Sabrosky 1983).

Subfamily MADIZINAE

Genus DESMOMETOPA Loew


ciliata Hendel, 1919: 200. Australia (NSW); Australia (ACT, Qld, SA, WA).
m-nigrum Zetterstedt, 1848: 2743 (Agromyza). Sweden; Australia (NSW, WA); virtually cosmopol. [apparently distributed in commerce].
palpalis de Meijere, 1914b: 251. Indonesia (Java & Sumatra).
tristicula Hendel, 1914a: 96. Taiwan.
m-nigrum, authors, not Zetterstedt, 1848, misid.
tarsalis Loew, 1866a: 184 [1872b: 62]. Cuba; Fiji, Hawaiian Is, Northern Marianas, PNG (Bismarck Arch), Solomon Is, Wake I; widesp. SW USA to Neotrop. Reg.
m-nigrum, authors, not Zetterstedt, 1848, misid.
varipalpis Malloch, 1927b: 7. Australia (NSW); Australia (NT, WA), Indonesia (Irian Jaya), widesp. Pacific Is to Hawaiian Is; cosmopol.
Genus LEPTOMETOPA Becker

MACRURUS Liy, 1864a: 1313. Type species: Agromyza latipes Meigen, 1830, mon. [Preocc. Schneider, 1801.]

LEPTOMETOPA Becker, 1903: 188. Type species: Leptometopa rufifrons Becker, 1903, mon.
HYPASPISTOMYIA Hendel, 1907b: 240. Type species: Hypaspistomyia coquilletti Hendel, 1907, mon.

Genus NEOPHYLLOMYZA Melander


Genus PARAMYIA Williston

PARAMYIA Williston, 1897: 1. Type species: Paramyia nigra Williston, 1897 [= Phyllomyza nitens Loew, 1869], mon.

Unidentified spp. — Australia (NSW, Qld, Tas, WA) (D.H. Colless, in litt.).

Genus PHYSILLOMYZA Fallén

PHYSILLOMYZA Fallén, 1810a: 20. Type species: Phyllomyza securicornis Fallén, 1823, subs. mon.

Fallén, 1823f: 8.

Unidentified spp. — Australia (NSW, NT, Qld, WA), Easter I, Indonesia (Irian Jaya), Solomon Is.

Genus STOMOSIS Melander


flavoscutellata Malloch, 1925f: 88. Australia (Vic).
vittata Malloch, 1925f: 89. Australia (NSW); Australia (ACT).

Subfamily MILICHIINAE

Genus EUSIPHONA Coquillett

EUSIPHONA Coquillett, 1897: 49. Type species: Eusiphona mira Coquillett 1897, orig. des.

Unidentified spp. — Australia (NSW, NT, WA).

Genus MILICHIAD Meigen


orientalis Malloch, 1913a: 109. Guam; Belau, Hawaiian Is; Kiribati (Gilbert Is); Northern Marianas, Tonga, Vanuatu.
Family MILICHIIDAE

piscivora Malloch, 1926d: 547. Australia (Qld); Australia (NSW).

Genus MILICHIELLA Giglio-Tos


argentea Fabricius, 1805: 323 (Tephritis). Indonesia (Maluku); ?Solomon Is.

circularis Aldrich, 1931: 397. Hawaiian Is.

lacteipennis Loew, 1866a: 185 [1872b: 63] (Lobiopera). Cuba; widesp. Pacific Is E to Pitcairn Is, N to Hawaiian Is, W to Bonin Is; virtually cosmopol. [probably distributed in commerce].

lacteiventris Malloch, 1931c: 77. Australia (Qld); ?Guam.


nigripes Malloch, 1931c: 77. Australia (NSW).

Genus PHOLEOMYIA Bilimek

PHOLEOMYIA Bilimek, 1867: 903. Type species: Pholeomyia leucotoma Bilimek, 1867, mon.

politifacies Sabrosky, 1959: 323. Dominican Republic; French Polynesia (Society Is) [prob. introduced].