

Family BLEPHARICERIDAE

Blepharicerids, commonly called net-winged midges, are slender, small to medium-length nematocerous flies whose extant forms are most often found in association with swift moving streams where they rest on overhanging vegetation, bridges, and the like. Immature stages of the extant forms are aquatic, and live in the waters of the swift moving streams where they attach themselves to hard, smooth surfaces via ventral suckers. Larvae are grazers; most adult males do not feed; some females feed on other insects that they catch with specialized hind tarsi.

The described fossils listed here may not belong to the Blephariceridae. Alexander (1958) alleges that there are no true blepharicerid fossils and those previously described in this family may belong in other nematocerous families: *Paltostomopsis* possibly being a tipulid and *Philorites* possibly being a bibionid. This view was subsequently followed by Hennig (1969c). These two genera are listed here provisionally pending further study to ascertain their true position within the Diptera.

The two questionable taxa listed below notwithstanding, undetermined material identified as Blephariceridae has been recorded from the Cretaceous deposits of northern Russia by Kalugina (1991: 70) and the Eocene/Oligocene deposits of the Isle of Wight (Jarzembowski, 1978: 251).

Ref.: Carpenter (1992, world fossils).

Questionably Included in BLEPHARICERIDAE

Genus PALTOSTOMOPSIS Cockerell

PALTOSTOMOPSIS Cockerell, 1915c: 489. Type species: *Paltostomopsis ciliatus* Cockerell, 1915, by original designation.

ciliata Cockerell, 1915c: 490. PA: UK (England) (Eocene/Oligocene) [C].

Genus PHILORITES Cockerell

PHILORITES Cockerell, 1908f: 264. Type species: *Philorites johannseni* Cockerell, 1908, by monotypy.

johannseni Cockerell, 1908f: 264. NE: USA (Eocene) [C].

pallescens Cockerell, 1920a: 250. NE: USA (Eocene) [C].