

VALIDATION OF THE NAME *DIOCOPHORA MULTICHAETA*
(DIPTERA: PHORIDAE)

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Abstract.—The name *Diocophora multichaeta* Disney, 2007, for a Neotropical phorid fly, was originally proposed without a holotype. This name is herein validated with a description of the species, *Diocophora multichaeta* Brown and Disney, new species, illustrations, and designation of a holotype specimen. The identification of specimens determined by Borgmeier (1959) as *Diocophora appretiata* (Schmitz) is clarified.

Key Words: phorid, Neotropical, nomenclature, taxonomy

One of us (RHL) recently reviewed the concept of the phorid species *Diocophora appretiata* (Schmitz 1923) in Disney and Rettenmeyer (2007) and noted that more than one species was being recognized under this name. In particular, Borgmeier (1959: figs. 34–35) figured female mouthparts that differed from those of the holotype of *D. appretiata* (Disney and Rettenmeyer 2007) and male terminalia with unusual setation (Borgmeier 1959: figs. 43, 44). Borgmeier's males and females were therefore assigned to a new species, *D. multichaeta* Disney, with the males and females considered tentatively conspecific. Disney and Rettenmeyer (2007) indicated, however, that there was the possibility one or both of these flies could be the unrecognized opposite sex of another species of *Diocophora* known only from males or females. In their description, Disney and Rettenmeyer (2007) did not designate a holotype, and they did

not examine any of Borgmeier's specimens.

According to article 16.4 in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), a holotype or syntypes must be fixed for a name to be valid. Thus, the name *Diocophora multichaeta* Disney is not available. To remedy this situation, we herein validate the name *Diocophora multichaeta*. One of us (BB) borrowed Borgmeier's material (eight specimens attributed to *D. appretiata* housed in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil- MZSP) and examined it, using the key to species presented by Disney and Berghoff (2007).

SYSTEMATICS

Diocophora multichaeta Brown and
Disney, new species
(Figs. 1–2)

Diocophora multichaeta Disney, 2007, in
Disney and Rettenmeyer 2007: 12.
Nomen nudum.

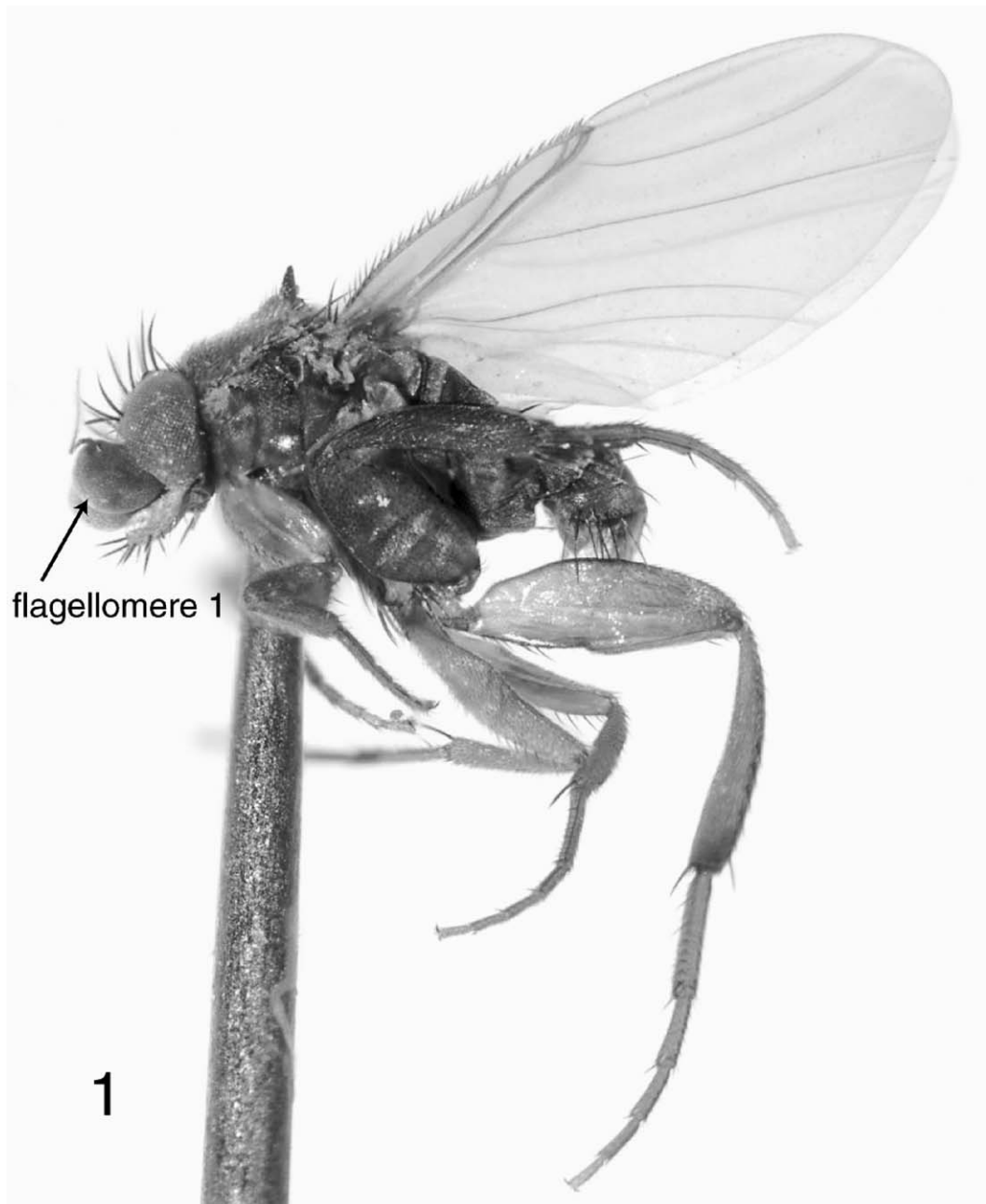


Fig. 1. *Diocophora multichaeta*, holotype male, left lateral.

Diocophora appretiata (Schmitz): Borgmeier, 1959: 149 (in part, male specimens not from Amazonas).

Diagnosis.—Costal setae of usual size, not reduced to apparent absence.

Wing vein M_1 (vein 4) ending anterior to wing tip. Both sides of epanthrium with several extremely long setae (Figs. 1–2). Venter of cercus on each side with row of several long setae (Fig. 2).

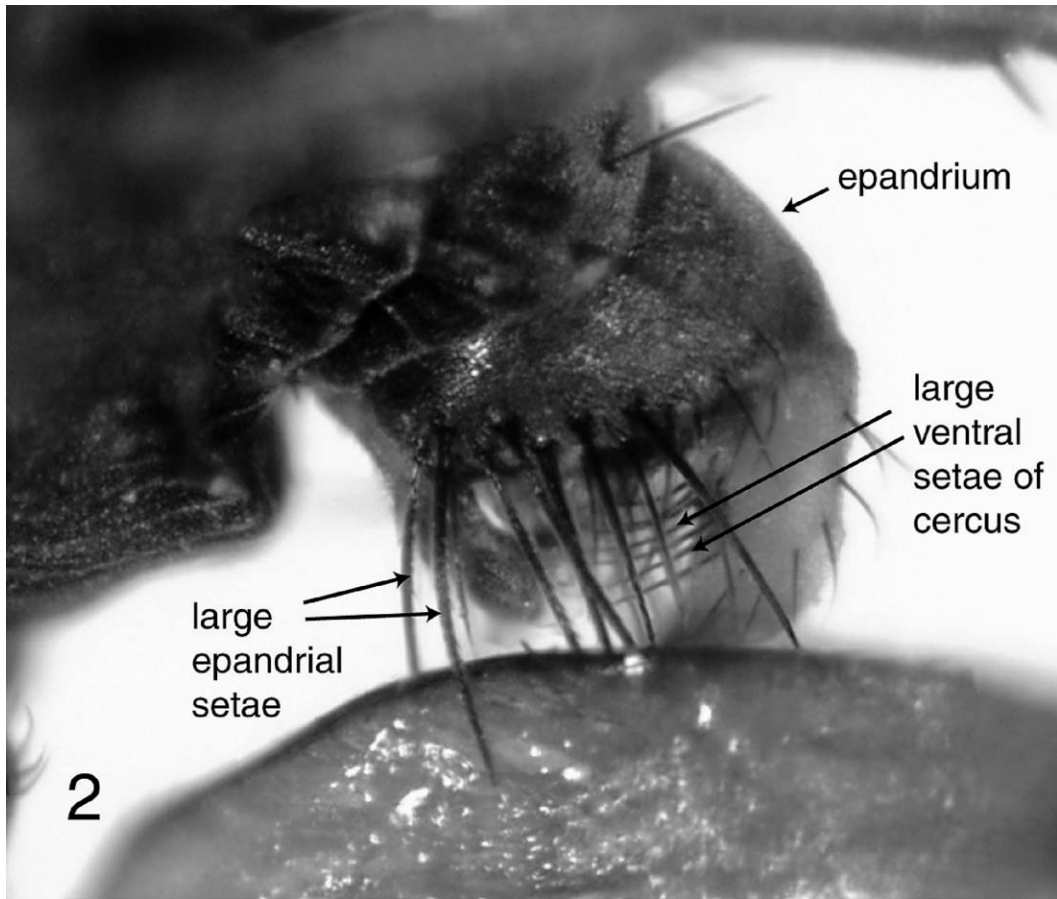


Fig. 2. *Diocophora multichaeta*, holotype male, terminalia, left lateral.

Description.—Male (Fig. 1). Body color dark brown; legs lighter brown. Body length 1.6–1.7 mm. Frons with faint median furrow; mean frontal ratio (frontal height divided by frontal width) 0.80, range 0.77–0.81. Two pairs of supra-antennal setae present, ventral pair slightly shorter and half as thick as dorsal pair (right ventral seta absent from holotype). Flagellomere 1 (postpedicel) greatly enlarged, rounded (Fig. 1). Mean costal length 0.49 wing length, range 0.47–0.50. Left side of epandrium of holotype with seven thick, extremely long setae; right side with four such setae (seven in one paratype). Cercus with six to seven long ventral setae on each side.

Female. Unknown.

Holotype.—♂, BRAZIL: Espirito Santo: S[anta] Teresa, 23.xi.[no year], O. Conde (MZSP). Barcode label LACM ENT 165692. Borgmeier (1959) stated that this specimen was collected with the army ant *Eciton burchellii*, but no label to this effect is on the specimen. Images of this specimen have been posted on Morphbank (www.morphbank.com), accessions #199824–199827.

Paratypes.—BRAZIL: Paraná: Rio Negro, 2 ♂, 22.i.1924, with *Eciton quadriglume*. Rio de Janeiro: Itatiaia, 1 ♂, [no date], J. F. Zikan [with *Eciton quadriglume*, according to Borgmeier 1959].

Remarks.—The male of *D. appetiata* is still unknown, and the new species

described herein is possibly that male. Disney and Berghoff (2007) and Disney and Rettenmeyer (2007) considered a female specimen illustrated by Borgmeier (1959) to be evidence for recognition of *D. multichaeta*, as its labrum was of a different shape than that of the holotype of *D. appretiata* (as examined by Dr. Brad Sinclair, then at the Zoologisches Museum, Bonn). There are two female specimens in the series we examined, however. One (from Itatiaya, originally mounted on the same double mount as a paratype male) has a labrum that appears to be similar to that illustrated by Borgmeier. The other (from Santa Teresa) is more like the description of *D. appretiata* cited by Disney and Rettenmeyer (2007). Both were collected with males of *D. multichaeta*, and there is no way to currently tell which (if either) is conspecific with these males. Furthermore, we still do not know how reliable the character of “labrum shape” is. For now, we consider it best to name the new species based on males only and hope that in the future more female specimens and, even more importantly, pairs of flies in copula can be obtained to sort out the true males of *D. appretiata*.

Diocophora praedasicaria Disney, 2007
Diocophora praedasicaria Disney, in Disney and Berghoff 2007: 76.
Diocophora multichaeta Disney, in Disney and Rettenmeyer 2007: 12 (in part, specimens from Amazonas). *Nomen nudum*.

Diocophora appretiata (Schmitz): Borgmeier, 1959: 149 (in part, specimens from Amazonas).

Material.—BRAZIL: Amazonas: São Gabriel, 1 ♂ 1 ♀ [mounted on same pin], [no date], J. Zikan, with *Eciton burchellii*; Manaus, 1 ♂, 17.xii.1927, J. F. Zikan, with *Eciton burchellii*.

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