

## A NEW *THALASSOSMITTIA* STRENZKE AND REMMERT, 1957 OUT OF THE SEA: *T. AMAZONICA* N. SP. FROM THE AMAZON RAINFOREST, BRAZIL (DIPTERA: CHIRONOMIDAE, ORTHOCLADIINAE)

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### Abstract

The orthoclad *Thalassosmittia amazonica* n. sp. is described based on a male collected in a light trap in the Amazon rainforest. The species is easily separated from its congeners as it has a strongly reduced palp with only a single palpomere.

### Introduction

Most of the 10 known species of *Thalassosmittia* Strenzke *et* Remmert are marine shore dwellers (Tokunaga 1936; Strenzke and Remmert 1957; Morley and Ring 1972; Sæther and Andersen 2011; Andersen *et al.* 2013). However, Wang and Sæther (1993) described *T. montana* Wang *et* Sæther from Xizang (Tibet) in China, where it was taken at 2500 m altitude. The species shows significant differences from the other species of the genus in the wing venation, virga and the phallapodeme. At the same time features of the anal point, gonostylus and the chaetotaxy is characteristic of *Thalassosmittia* and the species keys without difficulty to *Thalassosmittia* in Cranston *et al.* (1989). Wang and Sæther (1993) therefore placed the new species in *Thalassosmittia* and concluded that even if it eventually might be placed in a separate genus it is evidently closely related to *Thalassosmittia*.

Sorting through material collected in Manaus in the Amazon, we came across a species which keys to *Thalassosmittia* in Cranston *et al.* (1989). It has the features of the anal point and gonostylus characteristic of the genus and it groups with *T. montana* in the wing features, like cuneiform shape, R<sub>2+3</sub> running in the middle between R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>4+5</sub> and absence of setae on R. However, it differs in several other features such as having bare eyes and a reduced palp, a phallapodeme with triangular aedeagal lobe with strongly sclerotized median margin, and a strong virga with lateral lamellae. Even so we place it tentatively in *Thalassosmittia*. As with *T. montana* it might deserve a separate genus, but for the time being we are probably better served with keeping both in the genus *Thalassosmittia* awaiting the discovery of more species.

### Material and Methods

The specimen examined was collected in a light trap in the Reserva Adolpho Ducke in Manaus and preserved in alcohol. It was later mounted in Canada Balsam following the procedure outlined by Sæther (1969). The general morphology follows Sæther (1980).

The holotype is deposited in Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil (MZSP).

### *Thalassosmittia* Strenzke and Remmert

*Thalassosmittia* Strenzke and Remmert, 1957: 270.

Syn.: *Saundersia* Sublette, 1967: 318. Sæther (1977).

Syn.: *Ikiprimus* Sasa and Suzuki, 1999b: 157. Yamamoto (2004).

**Type species:** *Camptocladus thalassophilus* Bequaert and Goetghebuer, 1914: 373.

**Other included species:** *Thalassosmittia atlantica* (Storå, 1936: 27); *T. christinae* Sæther and Andersen, 2011: 10; *T. clavicornis* (Saunders, 1928: 528); *T. ikijee* (Sasa and Suzuki, 1999b: 157); *T. marina* (Saunders, 1928: 526); *T. montana* Wang and Sæther, 1993: 212; *T. nemalione* (Tokunaga, 1936: 305); *T. pacifica* (Saunders, 1928: 523); *T. tusimoefea* (Sasa and Suzuki, 1999a: 82).

The emended diagnosis is based on the diagnosis in Cranston *et al.* (1989: 243), including the emendations given by Wang and Sæther (1993: 211).

### Emended diagnosis, males

Small species, wing length up to 2.0 mm.

**Antenna.** With 7–8 or 11–13 flagellomeres; antennal groove, when present, beginning at flagellomere 3 or 4; sensilla chaetica variable, present on all flagellomeres in reduced species, perhaps sometimes absent. Antennal plume well developed, variable reduced or virtually absent. Ultimate flagellomere tapering to rounded apex, with-

out subapical, strong setae.

**Head.** Eye round, without dorsomedial extension; bare, pubescent or hairy. Up to 10 uniserial temporals present, including 1–2 inner verticals. Palp with single segment with about 8 sensilla clavata or with 5 segments, often short, with 1–3 sensilla clavata.

**Thorax.** Anteprenotum weakly developed, lobes widely separated by weakly projecting scutum. Few weak, decumbent acrostichals present on anterior to median scutum. Dorsocentrals, prealars and scutellars few, uniserial.

**Wing.** Membrane without setae, finely punctate. Anal lobe absent to well developed. Costa strongly extended.  $R_{2+3}$  either running close to or virtually fused with  $R_{4+5}$ , or running in the middle between  $R_1$  and  $R_{4+5}$ ;  $R_{4+5}$  ending distal to, at same level, or proximal to end of  $M_{3+4}$ ;  $Cu_1$  weakly to moderately sinuous; FCu far distal to RM; postcubitus and anal vein extend to, or slightly beyond, FCu.  $R$ ,  $R_1$  and  $R_{4+5}$  with or without seta. Squama bare.

**Legs.** All legs with 1 strong outer tibial spur; inner spur, if present, very small; comb normal. Sensilla chaetica absent. Pulvilli absent or vestigial; empodium elongate.

**Abdomen.** With few scattered setae.

**Hypopygium.** Anal point broad, apically rounded, covered with short to moderately long microtrichia and setae. Sternapodeme weakly convex, with or without weak, oral projections. Virga small, distinct or pronounced; with or without lateral lamellae. Phallapodeme sometimes heavily sclerotized. Gonocoxite with weakly indicated, rounded, superior volsella; inferior volsella somewhat variably developed, either bilobed or simple, often partly or completely without microtrichia, sometimes with broad spines apically. Gonostylus always with distinct dense microtrichia and setae on inner margin, without crista dorsalis, with normal, weak or without megaseta.

#### Remarks

In the key to the males of the Holarctic Orthoclaudiinae the new species keys without difficulties to couplet 95 - *Thalassosmittia* (part) *thalassophila* Bequaert and Goetghebuer (Cranston et al. 1989); in Sæther et al. (2000) it will key to couplet 175, but not further as the eyes are bare and not pubescent; the genus is not included in the key to the Central American Chironomidae (Spies et al. 2009).

When including the new species in *Thalassosmittia* the generic diagnosis has to be emended to include species with bare eyes and reduced palp.

The new species also has a phallapodeme with triangular aedeagal lobe and strongly sclerotized median margin, and a strong, spine-like virga with distinct lateral lamellae. However, it shares with its congeners the characteristically broad, apically rounded anal point, covered with microtrichia and setae. Further, the gonostylus has brush like setae on the inner margin and the megaseta is weak as in several other species of the genus. The costa is strongly extended, and  $R_{2+3}$  is running and ending closer to  $R_{4+5}$  than to  $R_1$ .

Wang and Sæther (1993) pointed out that *T. montana* might deserve a separate genus. The new species might also deserve a new genus, but it appears to differ too strongly from *T. montana* for the two species to be placed in the same genus. For the time being we are therefore probably better served with keeping both in the genus *Thalassosmittia*.

#### *Thalassosmittia amazonica* new species

(Figs 1–8)

**Type material:** Holotype male: Brazil, Amazonas State, Manaus, Reserva Adolpho Ducke, Igarapé Barro Branco, 02°55'47''S 59°58'22''W, 05–08 February 2010, light trap, leg. L.C. Pinho and H.F. Mendes (MZSP).

**Etymology:** Named after the Amazon region, where the type specimen was collected.

**Diagnostic characters:** The new species can be easily distinguished from its congeners as it has bare eyes and a reduced palp with only a single palpomere.

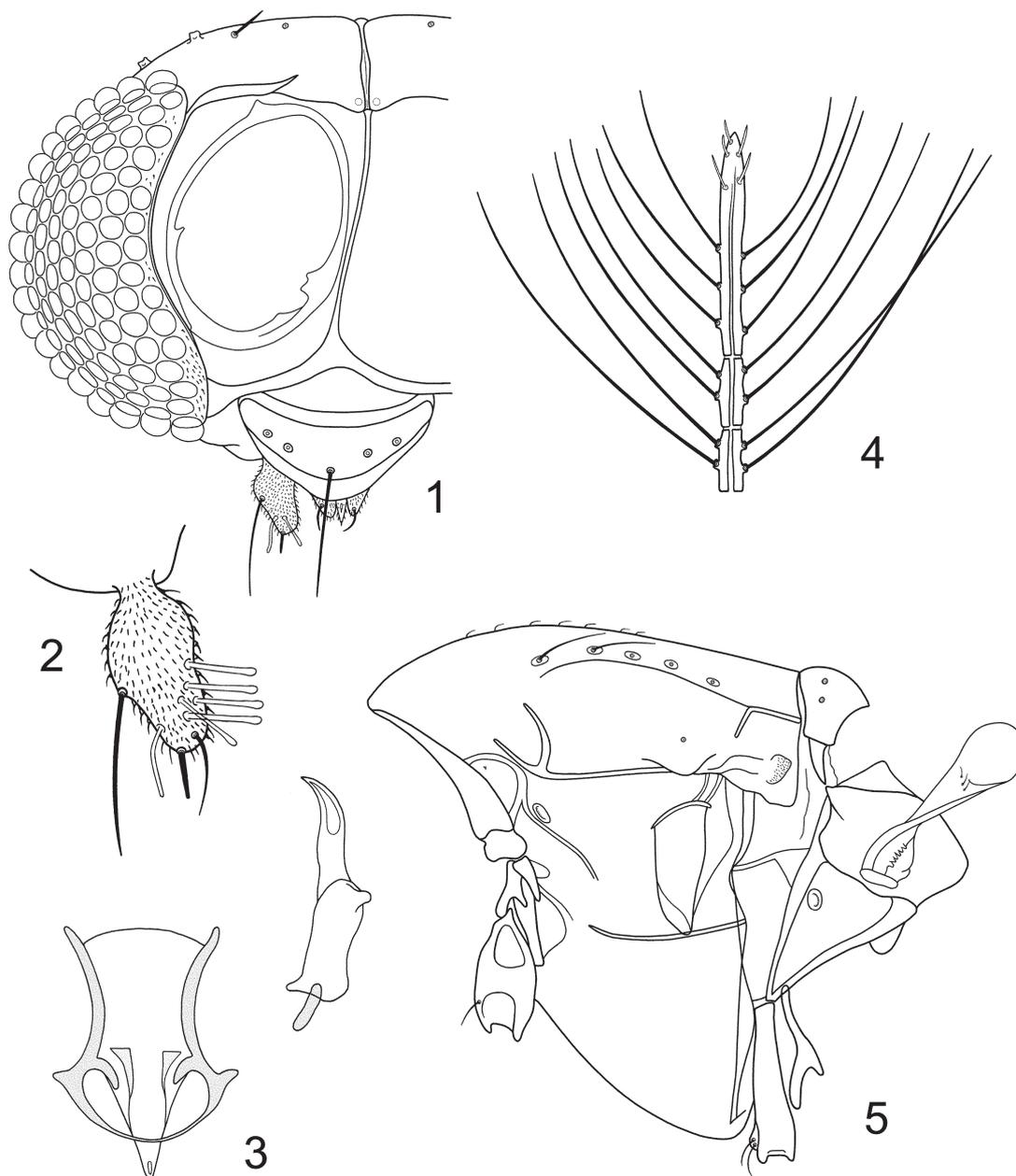
#### Description

Male (n = 1). Total length 1.41 mm. Wing length 858  $\mu$ m. Total length / wing length 1.65. Wing length / length of fore femur 2.76.

**Coloration.** Head, legs and abdomen light brown; thorax light brown with brown vittae; wings translucent.

**Antenna** (Fig. 4). With 13 flagellomeres, fully plumed, AR 0.31. Terminal flagellomere 128  $\mu$ m long, antennal groove starts on flagellomere 4, flagellomeres 2, 3 and terminal with sensilla chaetica.

**Head** (Fig. 1). Temporal setae 4, consisting of 2 inner verticals and 2 outer verticals. Clypeus with 5 setae. Tentorium, stipes and cibarial pump as in Figure 3. Tentorium 66  $\mu$ m long; 14  $\mu$ m wide. Stipes apparently about 15  $\mu$ m long. Palp (Fig. 2) with 1 palpomere, 29  $\mu$ m long, 18  $\mu$ m wide; with about 8 sensilla clavata, longest 12  $\mu$ m long.



Figures 1–5. *Thalassosmittia amazonica* n. sp., male. 1, head; 2, palp, ventral view; 3, tentorium, stipes and cibarial pump; 4, apex of antenna; 5, thorax.

**Thorax** (Fig. 5). Antepronotum without setae. Acrostichals about 7 in mid scutum, dorsocentrals 5; prealar 1. Scutellum with 4 setae.

**Wing** (Fig. 6). VR 1.41. **Wing cuneiform**. **C extension** 105  $\mu\text{m}$  long, narrow, without non-marginal setae. Brachiolum with 1 seta, other veins and membrane bare. Squama bare.

**Legs**. Fore tibia with 29  $\mu\text{m}$  long spur; mid tibia lost; hind tibia with 30  $\mu\text{m}$  and 11  $\mu\text{m}$  long spurs. Width at apex of fore tibia 19  $\mu\text{m}$ ; of hind tibia 22  $\mu\text{m}$ . Hind tibial comb reduced, apparently with 5 setae, longest 18  $\mu\text{m}$  long, shortest 12  $\mu\text{m}$  long.

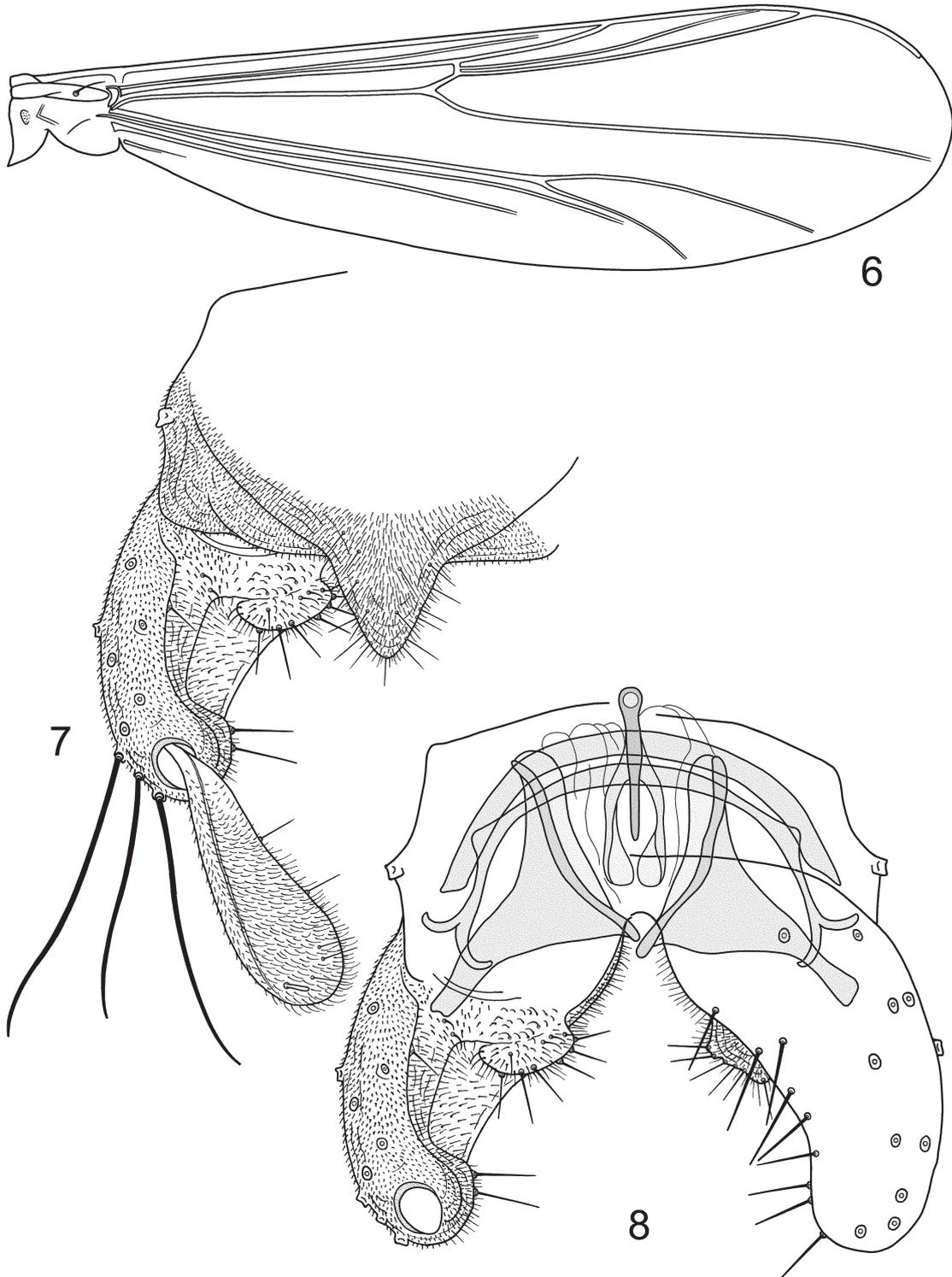
Sensilla chaetica and pseudospurs absent. Lengths (in  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and proportions of legs as in Table 1.

**Abdomen**. Tergite I with 3 setae, tergites II–VII with about 8 setae in transverse band, tergite VIII with 10 comparatively short setae in transverse band.

**Hypopygium** (Figs 7–8). Anal point broadly triangular; 28  $\mu\text{m}$  long, 33  $\mu\text{m}$  wide at base; with about 9 dorsal and 10 marginal, weak setae. Laterosternite IX with 2 setae. Phallapodeme 70  $\mu\text{m}$  long, aedeagal lobe triangular with 55  $\mu\text{m}$  long, strongly sclerotized median margin. Transverse sternap-

Table 1. Lengths (in  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and proportions of legs of *Thalassosmittia amazonica* n. sp., male (n = 1).

	fe	ti	ta <sub>1</sub>	ta <sub>2</sub>	ta <sub>3</sub>	ta <sub>4</sub>	ta <sub>5</sub>	LR	BV	SV	BR
p <sub>1</sub>	320	388	184	116	76	44	32	0.474	3.328	3.848	3.43
p <sub>2</sub>	352	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
p <sub>3</sub>	356	348	208	118	116	36	28	0.598	3.060	3.385	3.75



Figures 6–8. *Thalassosmittia amazonica* n. sp., male. 6, wing; 7, hypopygium, dorsal aspect; 8, hypopygium with anal point and tergite IX removed, dorsal aspect to the left and ventral aspect to the right.

odeme arched with weak oral projections, 80 µm long. Virga consisting of single, strong spine, 44 µm long; with strong, lateral lamellae. Gonocoxite 116 µm long. Inferior volsella subrectangular, 14 µm long. Gonostylus oar-blade shaped, 79 µm long, 23 µm wide at its widest point, densely covered with medially directed, long microtrichia and a few weak setae; megaseta weak, 6 µm long. HR 1.46. HV 1.78.

**Female and immatures.** Unknown.

#### **Distribution and ecology**

The species is only known from the type locality, Reserva Adolpho Ducke, a 10,000 ha reserve in the outskirts of Manaus in the Amazonas State, Brazil. The single male was collected in a light trap situated close to a stream and several temporary pools. The area is covered with primary forest and is relatively flat. During the rainy season numerous small pools are formed scattered on the forest floor.

Reserva Adolpho Ducke is also the type locality for *Dicrotendipes fittkau* Epler, *Beardius curticaudatus* Pinho, Mendes *et* Andersen, *Litocladius neusae* Mendes, Andersen *et* Hagenlund, and *Saetherocryptus amazonicus* Andersen *et* Pinho (Andersen and Pinho 2014; Epler 1988; Mendes *et al.* 2011; Pinho *et al.* 2013).

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