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***Amazunculus*, a new genus of pipunculid from the Amazon basin
(Diptera, Pipunculidae)**

by

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Abstract

Amazunculus, nov. gen., collected to date only in the Amazon basin, is described and its taxonomic position is discussed. Two species are included: *A. platypodus* (HARDY, 1950), nov. comb. (type-species) and *A. besti*, nov. spec.

Keywords: Diptera, Pipunculidae, Amazon region, *Amazunculus*.

Resumo

Amazunculus, gen. n., coletado, até hoje, somente na Bacia Amazônica é descrito e sua posição taxonômica discutida. Duas espécies são incluídas: *A. platypodus* (HARDY, 1950), comb. n. (espécie-tipo) e *A. besti*, spec. n.

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Introduction

Specimens of *Amazunculus* nov. gen., are very distinctive and may be separated from other pipunculids by various apomorphic characters: base of the wing infuscated, posterior tarsi expanded and flattened, vein *dm-cu* curved, abdomen oval, tergite I thin, surstyli fused with epandrium, parameres long and aedeagus trifold. The type-species, *A. platypodus* (HARDY), was placed in *Eudorylas* ACZÉL, a distinctly heterogeneous genus and one that has been split into various other genera, *Amazunculus* being one of them. In *Amazunculus*, at least two more new species that have been collected near Manaus, Brazil, are to be described when more specimens are available. The terminology is based on McALPINE (1981).

Amazunculus, nov. gen. (Figs. 1 - 6)

Eudorylas; ACZÉL, 1952: 242 (part.)

Pipunculus (*Eudorylas*); HARDY, 1966: 3 (part.)

Type-species: *Dorilas* (*Eudorylas*) *platypodus* HARDY, 1950

Diagnosis: antenna (Fig. 1) with apex of the flagellum obtuse below; dorsocentral and scutellar bristles diminute; scutellum rugose on posterior third; propleuron without bristles; ventral ctenidia present on fore and mid femora; hind tarsus expanded and flattened; wing (Fig. 2) distinctly infuscated at base; pterostigma present; vein *dm-cu* curved; vein M_2 absent; abdomen (Fig. 3) with inconspicuous pilosity, sometimes diminute and scattered; tergite I thin; without long lateral bristles; grey pruinescence present on tergite I and posterolaterally in the posterior ones; terminalia (δ) with tergite VI and sternite VII visible dorsally (Fig. 3); epandrium intumescent, partially visible dorsally on the right side; aedeagus simple (not divided), membranous (Fig. 5).

Size: 6.5 - 6.8 mm

Distribution: Neotropical Region (Amazon Basin).

Etymology: the generic epithet is a combination of the names Amazonia and *Pipunculus*, and alludes to the restricted geographical distribution of the known species.

Amazunculus platypodus (HARDY), nov. comb. (Figs. 1 - 5)

Dorilas (*Eudorylas*) *platypodus* HARDY, 1950: 442, figs. 6a - d.

Eudorylas platypodus; ACZÉL, 1952: 245 (cat.)

Pipunculus (*Eudorylas*) *platypodus*; HARDY, 1966: 5 (cat.)

HARDY's (1950) original description of this species is, except for some aspects, adequate. Antenna (Fig. 1) with brown flagellum; notopleuron partially grey pruinose; postpronotal lobe concolorous with the scutum; mesopleuron brown with dense grey pruinescence on the anterior half of the anepisternum; laterotergite (anatergite + katatergite) with dense grey pruinescence; subscutellum brown to black without grey pruinescence; mid and hind femora with dense grey pruinescence in the posterior face below; wing as Figure 2; abdomen (Fig. 3), tergite I thin, without long lateral bristles; tergites with diminute scattered pilosity; terminalia (δ) as Figure 4, in ventral view; sternite VIII with small membranous area; surstyli symmetrical, fused with epandrium; parameres and aedeagus apex as in Figure 5; aedeagus membranous with two subapical processes; parameres long with lateral expansions that are visible dorsally.

Size: body 6.8 mm; wing: 8.0 mm

Female: unknown

Distribution: Brazil (Amazonas and Pará states)

Type examined: square brackets signify information not included on label.

Holotype ♂, [BRAZIL], Amazon, [? Amazonas], 66 - 53, without collector (BMNH).

Specimens examined: BRAZIL, Pará, C [onção do] Araguaia, 19 - 31. i. 1983, J. A. Rafael, armadilha de Malaise (1 ♂ - INPA)

Holotype condition: good, except for the absence of the flagellum. Right wing mounted in a microslide with balsam and the terminalia placed in a microvial with glycerin, both pinned upon the pin with the specimen.

Amazunculus besti, nov. spec. (Fig. 6)

Holotype ♂: the characters included in the generic diagnosis are omitted here. Eyes holoptic; ocellar triangle black; frontal triangle and face with grey pubescence, the first slightly brown in dorsal view; antenna: pedicel black, flagellum yellow to brown with apex rounded below; scutum and scutellum black with brown pruinescence; dorso-central bristles diminute; notopleuron and postpronotal lobe concolorous with the scutum; mesopleuron black, brown pruinose, except the anepisternum with grey pruinescence anterodorsally in certain lights; laterotergite grey pruinose; subscutellum black with brown pruinescence; halter with stem brown and knob black; legs black, except apices of the femora and bases of the tibiae yellow; femora with grey pruinescence on the posterior face below; hind tarsus expanded and flattened; wing as in Figure 2 of *platypodus*; abdomen (Fig. 6) black with brown pruinescence, except tergite I and posterior ones with interrupted bands of grey pruinescence posterolaterally; terminalia: sternite VIII about equal in length to tergite V, with a small membranous area; epandrium and surstyli yellow, the latter longer than epandrium and almost reaching the base of the abdomen. The terminalia have not been dissected. In the in situ specimen, the surstyli appear to be symmetrical and the parameres longer than surstyli (Fig. 6).

Size: body: 6.8 mm; wing: 7.1 mm

Female: Eyes dichoptic; front and face with grey pubescence; postpronotal lobe, mesopleuron and anterior part of scutum with conspicuous grey pruinescence; abdomen with conspicuous grey pruinescence, except at base and middle of the tergites II - VI where there is predominance of brown pruinescence in certain lights. Ovipositor: syntergosternite VII + VIII black with grey pruinescence and sting (piercer) yellow to brown, straight, about equal in length to the syntergosternite.

Size: body: 6.5 mm; wing: 7.0 mm

Distribution: Brazil (Amazonas state)

Type examined: Holotype ♂, BRAZIL, [Amazonas] (AM), Rio Japurá, L [ago] Amanã, ix. 1982, R. BEST (INPA)

Paratype ♀: idem, viii. 1982 (INPA)

Holotype condition: good (not dissected)

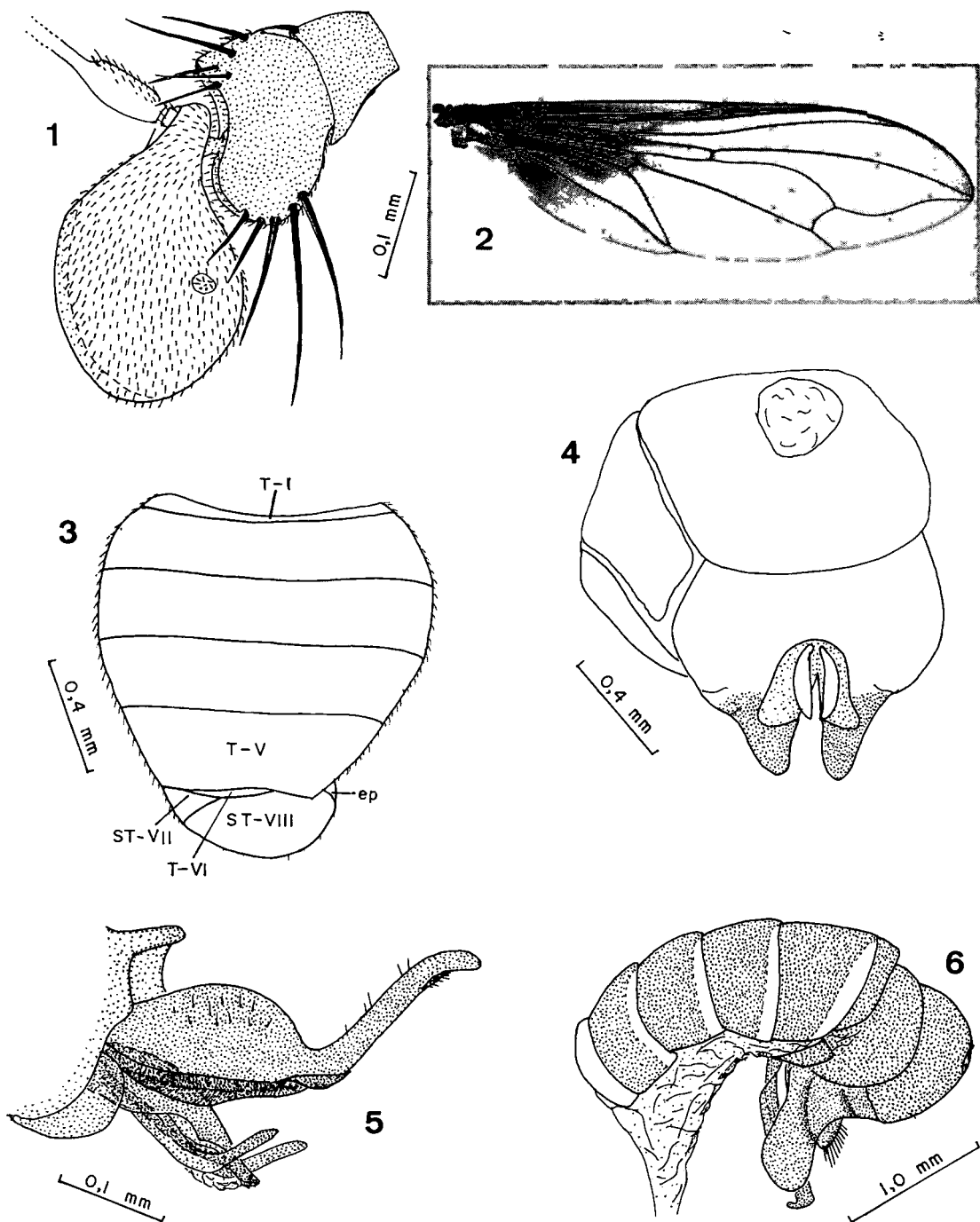
Etymology: the specific name is in honour of Mr. Robin Best, who has collected many insects in the Amazon Basin.

Acknowledgments

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Figures 1 - 5:

Amazunculus platypodus (HARDY), nov. comb., holotype male, except figure 1.

1: left antenna (male from Pará); 2: right wing; 3: abdomen (dorsal view): ep = epandrium,

ST = sternite, T = tergite; 4: terminalia (ventral view); 5: parameres and aedeagus apex (lateral view).

Figure 6:

Amazunculus besti, nov. spec., abdomen (lateral view), holotype male.

