Culicoides espinolai is a typical member of the debilipalpis group, where it most closely resembles C. insiniatus Ortiz & Leon (1954, Bol. Inf. Cient. Nac. 7: 564 - 590) and C. todatangae Wirth & Blanton (1973, Amazoniana 4 (4): 405 - 470) by the presence of a pale spot in cell M2 lying adjacent to midportion of mediocubital stem. Both species differ from espinolai by the greater pilosity of eyes. C. espinolai differs from insiniatus by the larger size, the aspect of the femora, the reduced size of pale spots in the wing and the greater palpal ratio and proboscis. It differs from todatangae by broadly separated eyes and well separated poststigmatic pale spots in cell R5.

Fig. 1: Photograph of female wing of Culicoides espinolai n. sp.

Figs. 2-9: Culicoides espinolai n. sp. female; 2, eye separation; 3, antenna, 4, fore leg; 5, mid leg; 6, hind leg; 7, palpus; 8, spermathecae; 9, hind tibial comb.