Asilinae Latreille, 1802 is the most diverse subfamily of Asilidae, including 177 extant genera, and is distributed in all biogeographic regions, except Antarctica. Even though 66 genera are recognized from the Neotropical region, only 18 occur in Brazil (Geller-Grimm 2004; Papavero 2009; Vieira 2012a).

Aristofolia Ayala-Landa, 1978 is a monotypic genus and its distribution is restricted to Venezuela. Specimens of Aristofolia have been collected on the savannas of the central plains (Llanos) of Venezuela, in the state of Guárico, 170 m, during the dry season. This genus is characterized by the stylus of antenna which bears a leaf-like projection (Figs. 2, 13, 14) (Ayala-Landa 1978). Ayala-Landa (1978) commented on Aristofolia similarities with Lecania Macquart, 1838 and provided diagnostic characters for the genera Eicherax Bigot, 1857 and Cerozodus Bigot, 1857.

Geller-Grimm (2004) allocated Aristofolia as incertae sedis within Asilidae, while Papavero (2009) synonymized Aristofolia with Lecania. In this paper, the status of Aristofolia is revalidated. Discussion about the position of the genus on Asilidae and addenda to the original description are provided.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This study is based on the examination of specimens housed at Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia – INPA, CBIO – Programa de Pós-Graduação em Entomologia, Campus II, 69060–000 Manaus-AM, Brazil. rodrigo08vieira@gmail.com

ABSTRACT. Aristofolia Ayala-Landa, a valid genus of Asilinae (Diptera, Asilidae). The robber fly genus Aristofolia Ayala-Landa, 1978 is a monotypic taxon of Asilinae. The status of Aristofolia is revalidated, and addenda to the original description of the genus is provided. The habitus, wings, male and female terminalia are described and illustrated.

KEYWORDS. Brachycera; Insecta; Neotropical; taxonomy; Venezuela.

TAXONOMY

Aristofolia Ayala-Landa, 1978


Comments. Papavero (2009, p. 30) synonymized Aristofolia with Lecania. However, this author did not explain the reason for this taxonomic change. Aristofolia clearly differs from Lecania mainly by the stylus of antenna. In Aristofolia, the stylus possesses a leaf-like projection (Figs. 2, 15), while in Lecania the stylus is setae-like. Furthermore, Aristofolia lapila, the type-species of Aristofolia, has at least two apical scutellar macrosetae, the male possesses an aedeagus with three short prongs (Fig. 11) and females have three spermathecae, while the species of Lecania do not have apical scutellar macrosetae, the male aedeagus has only two elongated prongs and the females have only two spermathecae.

In Asilinae, only males of Cerozodus have also a dilation in the stylus, however this dilation is situated at the basal region ventrally and postpedicel laterally compressed with the apex broadly truncate (Artigas & Papavero 1995; Vieira et al. 2013). In Aristofolia, the leaf-like projection is located in the mid-apical region and the postpedicel is oval (Figs. 2, 15). Furthermore, the male terminalia of Aristofolia is similar to those in the genera of the Efferia group.

Aristofolia lapila Ayala-Landa, 1978

(Figs. 1–16)


Comments. The original description of A. lapila contemplates the most important morphological characters used in taxonomy of Asilinae, however it lacks a description of the structures of the terminalia.
Addenda to the original description. **Head.** Stylus with one element (Figs. 2, 15). **Thorax.** Prosternum separated from proepisternum. Prosternum triangular; no anatergal setae; **Wing.** Short stump vein supernumerary crossvein on R₄ not reaching base of R₁₃ (Fig. 3); microtrichia on posterior wing margin arranged in a single plane. **Abdomen.** Male sternite VIII completely covering the hypandrium (Fig. 5); apical margin of male sternite VIII developed, rounded with long...
Aristofolia Ayala-Landa, a valid genus of Asilinae

Aristofilia Ayala-Landa, a valid genus of Asilinae


setae (Fig. 9). Ventral margin with concavity V-shaped (Fig. 9). Male terminalia. Terminalia oblique to the axis of the body (Fig. 1); ventral margin of epandrium straight, in lateral view (Figs. 5, 8); hypandrium with concavity on medioapical region; hypandrium fused partially with epandrium (Fig. 8); subepandrial sclerite with two rounded preapical projection (Fig. 7); aedeagus with three short prongs (Fig. 11); apex of gonocoxite triangular (Fig. 10); apex of gonostylus truncate (Fig. 10); apex and dorsal preapical region of gonostylus slightly sclerotized (Fig. 10). Female terminalia. Tergite VIII more or less long, shorter than twice the length of tergite VII (Fig. 14); sternite VIII keel-like throughout; genital fork with thin and elongated arms, three oval capsules of spermathecae (Fig. 16).


Distribution. Venezuela.

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