

## RESEARCH NOTE

## New Synonymy to *Simulium* (*Inaequalium*) *inaequale* (Paterson & Shannon, 1927)

S Coscarón, DR Miranda-Esquivel\* /<sup>+</sup>

Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo, 1900, La Plata, Argentina \*Universidad Industrial de Santander, AA 678 Bucaramanga, Colombia

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*Simulium* (*Inaequalium*) *inaequale*, described as *Eusimulium inaequalis* (G Paterson & RC Shannon 1927 *Rev Inst Bacteriol* 4: 737-742), is a moderately anthropophilic species with a broad distribution. It is known from Brazil (from Amapá, Paraíba, and Mato Grosso to Rio Grande do Sul), Paraguay (Alto Paraná and Cordillera), Bolivia (Nor Yungas, La Paz) and Argentina (Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, and Misiones).

The description of *Thrysopelma argentata* Enderlein, 1936 (I Sitz *Gesell Naturf Freunde Berlin* 125:113-130) was based on a single female specimen. Our revision of this holotype, deposited in the Museum für Naturkunde in Berlin, shows the following characters. General color black; scutum black with grayish pollinosity; according to light direction it shows 1+1 weak sub-median gray bands, with decumbent pilosity varying from silver to copper. Pleurae black with silver pollinosity. Abdomen black, tergite II with 1+1 sub-lateral silver spots, tergites V-VIII showing a waxy shine. Legs with a color pattern similar to that of *S. inaequale*. Female genitalia are also similar to those of *S. inaequale*, paraprocts slightly shorter than basal width, distal border rounded and covered with spicules. Sternite VIII with median dark

spot and 1+1 lateral spots. Gonapophyses divergent, sub-triangular, with internal border more sclerotized. Arms of genital fork relatively slim. These characters agree with the description and figures for the subgenus *Inaequalium* given by S Coscarón and P Wygodzinsky (1984 *Arq Zool (São Paulo)* 31: 37-103). The dissected genitalia have been attached to the holotype pin.

Although we do not know the morphology of the basal portion of the cibarium, that could help us to identify this taxon, the observed characters of *T. argentata* do not agree with the diagnostic features of the subgenus *Thrysopelma* (type species *Simulium orbitale* Lutz, 1910 = *Thrysopelma brasiliensis* Enderlein, 1934) nor with those of *Trichodagmia* (type species *Simulium chalcocoma* Knab, 1914 = *Trichodagmia latitarsis* Enderlein, 1934) based on the actual concept of these subgenera given by RW Crosskey and TM Howard [1997 *A New Taxonomic and Geographical Inventory of World Blackflies (Diptera: Simuliidae)*, The Natural History Museum, London, 144 pp.] Therefore we consider that this holotype specimen of *T. argentata* belongs to the subgenus *Inaequalium*. For an accurate species identification additional specimens (females and pupae) need to be examined, but given the similarity of *T. argentata* with the description of *S. (I.) inaequale* and its origin (Bolivia = High Perú = "hoch Peru"), a place where *S. (I.) inaequale* also occurs (Nigrilluni, Nor Yungas, Dto. La Paz), we propose this new synonymy *Simulium (Inaequalium) inaequale* (Paterson y Shannon, 1927) = *Thrysopelma argentata* Enderlein, 1936.

The actual nomenclatural status of *S. (I.) inaequale* is as follows:

*Simulium inaequale* (Paterson & Shannon, 1927) =  
*Simulium baiense* Pinto, 1932  
*Trichodagmia manicata* Enderlein, 1934  
*Simulium jundiaiense* d' Andretta & Dolores González, 1964  
*Thrysopelma argentata* Enderlein, 1934.

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<sup>+</sup>Corresponding author. Fax: +54-21-257527. E-mail: dmiranda@uis.edu.co

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