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A NEW SPECIES OF *SCAPTIA* (*SCAPTIA*) FROM BOLIVIA (DIPTERA: TABANIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT

Scaptia (*Scaptia*) *nigribella*, New Species, from Bolivia is described and figured. It is compared to the sympatric and also most similar congener *S. (S.) aureopygia* Philip.

RESUMEN

Scaptia (*Scaptia*) *nigribella*, una nueva especie de Bolivia es descrita e ilustrada. Es comparada a la coextensiva distribución del congénere similar *S. (S.) aureopygia* Philip.

Scaptia Walker (Pangoniinae: Scionini) is predominantly an Australasian genus, with members also occurring in temperate and high altitude southern South America. Mackerras (1955, 1960) gave a complete discussion of classification, characteristics and distribution of the genus *Scaptia*, and Fairchild (1969) provided a key to and notes on the 4 South American subgenera of *Scaptia*. For South American species there are recent reviews of the subgenus *Pseudoscione* Lutz (Wilkerson and Coscarón, 1984) and the subgenus *Scaptia* (Coscarón and Wilkerson, in press). On a recent visit to Bolivia I collected a single, distinct species of *Scaptia* (*Scaptia*), but unfortunately, this collection was made too late to include it in the above review of the subgenus.

Scaptia (*Scaptia*) *nigribella* Wilkerson, NEW SPECIES (Fig. 1-4)

A medium-sized nearly entirely black and black haired species with a sparsely grayish pollinose frons, face, and pleura. Scutum obscurely striped,

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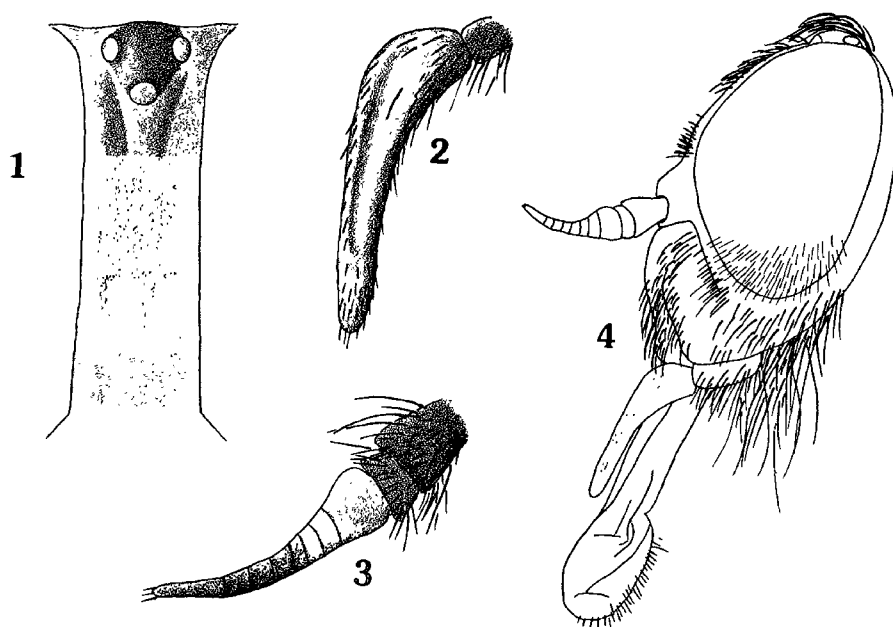


Fig. 1-4. Head structures of *Scaptia* (*Scaptia*) *nigribella*, n. sp. 1, Frons. 2, Palp. 3, Antenna. 4, Head, side view.

dark bluish pruinose. Base of wing, costal cell and stigma black, remainder infuscated brown with narrow hyaline fenestrae in most cells, Abdomen shiny black, and black haired.

FEMALE HOLOTYPE: Length: body, 12 mm; wing 12 mm. Head structures as figured. Frontal index 3.0; frons, subcallus, genae, frontoclypeus and postociput with black integument, covered with sparse silvery gray pollinosity that is more dense on lower frons and subcallus. Area around antennal insertions yellowish brown. Frontal hairs black, those at vertex quite long; hairs sparser at base but with 2 small clumps just above subcallus. Ocellar tubercle raised, bearing 3 distinct ocelli. Eye hairs numerous and short, visible without magnification, most yellowish brown but with some black hairs intermixed. Facial hairs black; beard black with some dark brown hairs intermixed. Antennal scape and pedicel black, gray pollinose; first 3 flagellomeres reddish, remainder black. Palpus black and black haired, with central depressed area of 2nd segment reddish; with yellowish pollinosity visible depending on angle of light. Proboscis black, without shiny sclerotized areas.

Scutum and scutellum black in ground color, black haired, posterior scutal hairs and those on scutellum quite long. Scutum faintly dark blue pruinose except for a slender middorsal black line, and lateral and sublateral black lines. Pleuron and coxae black, black haired, covered with sparse gray pollinosity, hairs rather sparse except for large clumps in front of and behind wing base. Remaining leg segments black, black haired. Wing with a small black area at base, dark costal cell and stigma, remainder lightly infuscated brown with hyaline fenestrae in most cells. Haltere with a dark brown stem and black knob, covered with some pale grayish pollinosity.

Abdomen shiny black above and below, covered with short sparse black hairs, lateral hairs longer and more numerous, Posterior border of tergite 7 with sparse golden yellow hairs intermixed with black hairs.

HOLOTYPE: ♀ Bolivia, Cochabamba Dept., km 95 on road from Cochabamba to Villa Tunari, 1800 m, 2-IX-1983, R. Wilkerson. To be deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville, Florida.

MALE: Not known.

DISCUSSION: *Scaptia nigribella* keys to the ultimate couplet ("9") in Coscarón and Wilkerson (in press) but matches neither alternative (*S. aureopygia* Philip nor *S. collaris* (Philippi)). *Scaptia collaris* is distinctive because it has a "collar" of golden yellow hairs reaching from in front of the wing bases, meeting forward along the anterior margin of the scutum and also because abdominal tergite 6 is golden yellow haired not black haired. *Scaptia nigribella* differs from the nearly all black and black haired *S. aureopygia* by having a wider frons (index 3.0 vs 3.7-4.0), by having the wing cells fenestrate, not wholly pale infuscated, and by having a faintly blue pruinose striped scutum, not faintly brown pollinose. *Scaptia aureopygia* is larger (13.5-15.5 mm vs 13.0 mm) and has distinctive golden yellow haired abdominal segments 5 and 6 or 4-6 while *S. nigribella* has a wholly black haired abdomen except for a few nearly indiscernable golden yellow hairs on segment 7. *Scaptia aureopygia* and *S. nigribella* are sympatric, at least at the type locality, since both were taken by me in the same collection.

As Coscarón and Wilkerson (in press) state, the species that belong to *Scaptia* (*Scaptia*) are separated primarily by hair coloration. In many genera of Tabanidae hair coloration is not taxonomically reliable. This is best exemplified by *Stibasoma* Schiner, some species of which vary from all black to all yellow haired. *Scaptia* (*Scaptia*) species however, seem to vary little in hair coloration.

The name "nigribella" is from the Latin meaning "black beauty."

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