

CHOERADES FORTUNATUS SP. N. FROM THE CANARY ISLANDS (DIPTERA, ASILIDAE)

MARCOS BAEZ, MEDEEA WEINBERG

On décrit l'espèce *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n. des Canaries.

The Asilidae of the Canary Islands have been studied by **M a c q u a r t** (1838), **B e c k e r** (1908) and **F r e y** (1936, 1958), but none of the above mentioned authors recorded the tribe Laphriini, nor the genus *Choerades*.



Fig. 1. Habitat of *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n.. Laurel forest (Las Mercedes, Tenerife) (Photo Baez).

Amongst the Asilidae material in the collection of the Santa-Cruz Natural History Museum, there figure three specimens of an undescribed species, which we call *fortunatus*, of the genus *Choerades*, collected by D. Jose M. Fernandez in El Monte de Las Mercedes and its immediate surroundings.

Thus the habitat of this species is the forest of laurisilva (Fig. 1), characteristic of the humid mountain zone of the Western Canaries, a forest, which from a faunistic point of view, is characterized by the high degree of endemic species it harbours.

***Choerades fortunatus* sp. n.**

(Figs. 2—5)

Descriptions : ♂ Head black. Eyes bare, the frontal facets being larger. Face with golden yellow pilosity extending from the base of the antenna to the facial tubercle. The profile of the facial tubercle presents a well defined moustache of black hairs. Palps black with hairs at the base longer than the third joint. Proboscis shiny black with short yellow hairs at its apex and long fine white hairs at the base. Pilosity of posterior part of head fine and long, black on the upper half and white on the lower half up to the peristome. Seen dorsally, the vertex measures approximately 1/4 of total length of head (interrelation 32:7).



Fig. 2. Head of holotype of *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n. (Photo Baez).

Antennae black, long (Fig. 2, 3 A), the first segment with long pilosity, second nearly $1/3$ shorter than first with sparse pilosity localized principally on the tip, third segment progressively broadening towards apical third and thereafter narrowing till the tip. Interrelation between segments 2.8:1:6.2.

Thorax black. Propleura with white pruinosity and pilosity of same colour. Mesopleura with lustres of white pruinosity. Humeral calli with white pruinosity. Mesonotum with short disperse yellow pilosity together with a black pilosity a little longer but more disperse. Scutellum with the same pilosity as mesonotum and with eight long bristles on its border, all black except two in the middle which are yellow. Wings slightly darkened in their apical half. Legs black. Anterior and intermediate coxas with white pruinosity and pilosity of same colour. Posterior femurs broadened in their posterior half. Tibias with fine pilosity long and white on outer face, and short fine golden pilosity along inner face. Posterior tibiae curved and broadening towards their tips, where there is a small patch of short golden hairs. Tarsi with short golden pilosity on inner face of joints, principally the metatarsi. Metatarsi with two pairs of yellow spines situated on the central part, more developed on the posterior legs. Pulvilli large and yellow. Empodium yellow. Claws black and curved at the tip, yellowish only at the base.

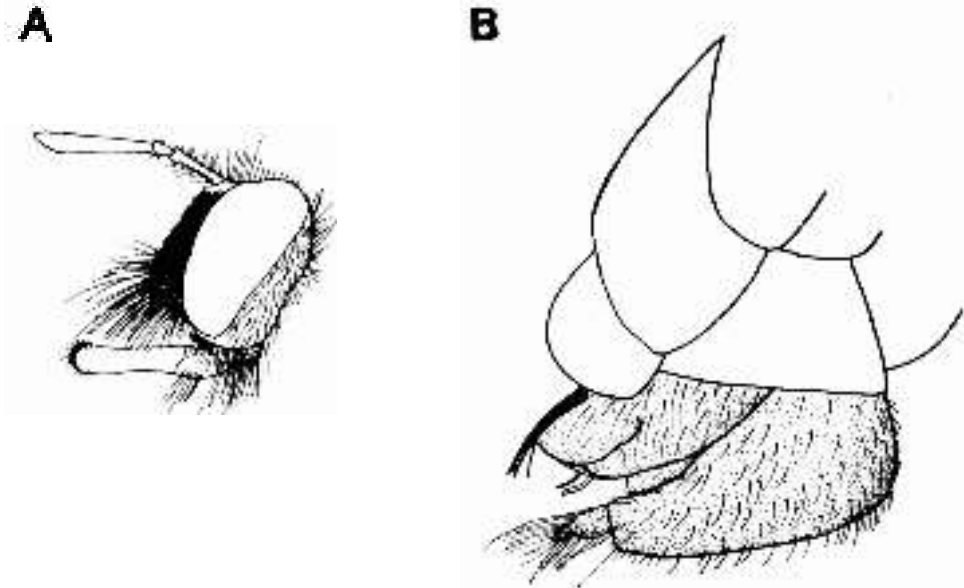


Fig. 3. Head (A) and hypopygium (B) of holotype of *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n. (drawing Baez).

Abdomen shiny black. Tergites with short black pilosity uniformly distributed, and with long golden pilosity on their posterior vertices (Fig. 4). Tergites 1+2 and 3 lacking golden pilosity. Sternites black with fine black pilosity. Hypopygium (Fig. 3 B, 4): epandrium with black hairs and a tuft



Fig. 4. Abdomen of holotype of *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n. (Photo Baez).



Fig. 5. ♀ of *Choerades fortunatus* sp. n. (Photo Baez).

of white hairs on the tip; gonopod nearly bare with several long black bristles recumbent on the surface and extending beyond it.

Body length: 15 mm. Wing length: 11 mm.

♀ (Fig. 5): Similar to male. Pilosity on inferior part of posterior region of head is darker than in male. Abdomen a little broader. Pruinosity of pleura a little more patent than that of male.

Body length: 14 mm. Wing length: 11 mm.

Holotype: 1♂ Tenerife: Barranco de Tahodio 31.VII.1955, leg. J. M. Fernandez.

Paratypes: 1 ♀ Monte de Las Mercedes "verano" (summer) 1947, leg. J. M. Fernandez; 1 ♀ Monte de Las Mercedes 14.VII.1957, leg. J. M. Fernandez.

Holotype and paratypes in the collection of the Museo de Ciencias Naturales de Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

Remarks

Choerades fortunatus is a species allied to *Choerades fimbriata* Mg.

CHOERADES FORTUNATUS SP. N. DIN INSULELE CANARE (DIPTERA, ASILIDAE).

REZUMAT

După ce se prezintă datele referitoare la semnalarea prezenței speciilor din tribul Laphriini în Insulele Canare, se stabilește că genul *Choerades* nu a fost semnalat pînă în prezent în această zonă.

Cercetîndu-se material de Asilidae conservat la Muzeul Insular de Istorie Naturală, au fost găsite trei exemplare ce aparțin unei noi specii pentru știință, pe care autorii o numesc *fortunatus* și care face parte din genul *Choerades*.

Exemplarele (1 ♂ și 2 ♀♀) au fost colectate între anii 1947 și 1957 de către J. M. Fernandez, în vestul Insulelor Canare, pe muntele Las Mercedes și împrejurimi. Această zonă este caracterizată din punct de vedere vegetal printr-un număr mare de endemisme.

Lucrarea cuprinde în continuare descrierea speciei noi pentru știință *Choerades fortunatus*.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BECKER (TH.), 1908 — Dipteren des Kanarischen Inseln. *Mitt. Zool. Mus. Berlin*, 4: 1—180.
 FREY (R.), 1936 — Die Dipterenfauna der Kanarischen Inseln und Ihre Probleme. *Comm. Biol.* 6, 1: 1—237.
 FREY (R.), 1958 — Kanarische Diptera brachycera p. p., von Hakan Lindberg gesammelt. *Comm. Biol.*, 17, 4: 1—63.
 MACQUART (J.), 1838 — Dipteres. In: Webb & Berthelot, *Histoire Naturelle des Iles Canaries*, 2, 2: 114—121 *Béthune*.

Marco Baez
 Departamento de Zoologia
 Universidad de la Laguna
 Tenerife-Islands Canarias
 España
 Medeea Weinberg
 Muzeul de istorie naturală «Grigore Antipa»
 Sos. Kiseleff 1
 71243 București, România

