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FIRST RECORD OF THE GENUS *FILLUS* NAVÁS, 1919 (NEUROPTERA: ASCALAPHIDAE) FROM VENEZUELA

V. N. Makarkin^{1*)}, A. A. Lastukhin²⁾

1) Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity, Far Eastern Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Vladivostok, 960022, Russia. *Corresponding author, E-mail: vnmakarkin@mail.ru

2) Chuvash National Academy of Sciences and Arts, 15 Lenin Ave., Cheboksary, Chuvash Republic, 428000, Russia. E-mail: alastukhin@gmail.com

Summary. The genus *Fillus* Navás, 1919 (Ascalaphidae: Ascalaphinae) is recorded for the first time from Venezuela based on a female. This is the northern-most locality of the genus. It is preliminarily assigned to the Brazilian species *F. amazonicus* Machado et Rafael, 2011.

Key words: Ascalaphidae, Ascalaphinae, fauna, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, South America.

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Резюме. Род *Fillus* Navás, 1919 (Ascalaphidae: Ascalaphinae) впервые зарегистрирован в Венесуэле по самке, собранной в самом северном местонахождении для рода. Самка предварительно отнесена к бразильскому виду *F. amazonicus* Machado et Rafael, 2011.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Fillus* Navás, 1919 is distributed in South America and has three species: *F. brethesi* Navás, 1919 in Argentina, *F. paradoxus* (van der Weele, 1909) in Paraguay, and *F. amazonicus* Machado et Rafael, 2011 in Brazil (Navás, 1919; Penny, 1982; Machado & Rafael, 2011). An unnamed female of the genus was also recorded from Colombia (Ardila-Camacho *et al.*, 2019). Penny (1982) believed that *F. brethesi* and *F. paradoxus* are synonyms.

Here, we report the first known occurrence of the genus in Venezuela based on a female. It is preliminarily assigned to the Brazilian species *F. amazonicus*. The specimen was collected during an expedition by A.A. Lastukhin (head), A.R. Laptev and A.G. Stepanov to Venezuela from 28 February to 27 March 2011; for details of the expedition route see Lastukhin (2013: fig. 1).

NEW RECORD

Subfamily Ascalaphinae Lefèbvre, 1842

Genus *Fillus* Navás, 1919

Fillus ?amazonicus Machado et Rafael, 2011

Figs 2A–E

MATERIAL. **Venezuela:** state of Amazonas, 5 km E of Puerto Ayacucho, Indian settlement of Churhuata chaman Bolivar, 5.668531299387301°N, 67.53594968709469°W, at light, 23.III 2011, 1 ♀ (A.A. Lastukhin).

DISTRIBUTION. Brazil (Amazon basin), Venezuela.

REMARKS. The collection locality is a lowland tropical rainforest with areas cleared for agriculture, e.g., for growing *Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr., *Carica papaya* L., *Musa* sp., and *Manihot esculenta* Crantz. In some places, there are large boulders (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Collection locality of the Venezuelan specimen of *Fillus ?amazonicus* Machado et Rafael, 2011 (photo by A.A. Lastukhin).

DISCUSSION

The Venezuelan specimen is generally very similar to the Brazilian specimens by the structure and coloration of its body and appendages, and its wing venation (Figs 2A–C). However, it differs in some details. The antenna of the male holotype of *Fillus amazonicus* is 15.52 mm long, and its forewing is 28.30 mm long. The relative length of antennae (ratio antenna/ forewing lengths) is therefore 0.55. The antenna of the Venezuelan female is *ca.* 14 mm long, and its forewing is 31 mm long; the relative length of antennae in this female (0.45) is notably less.

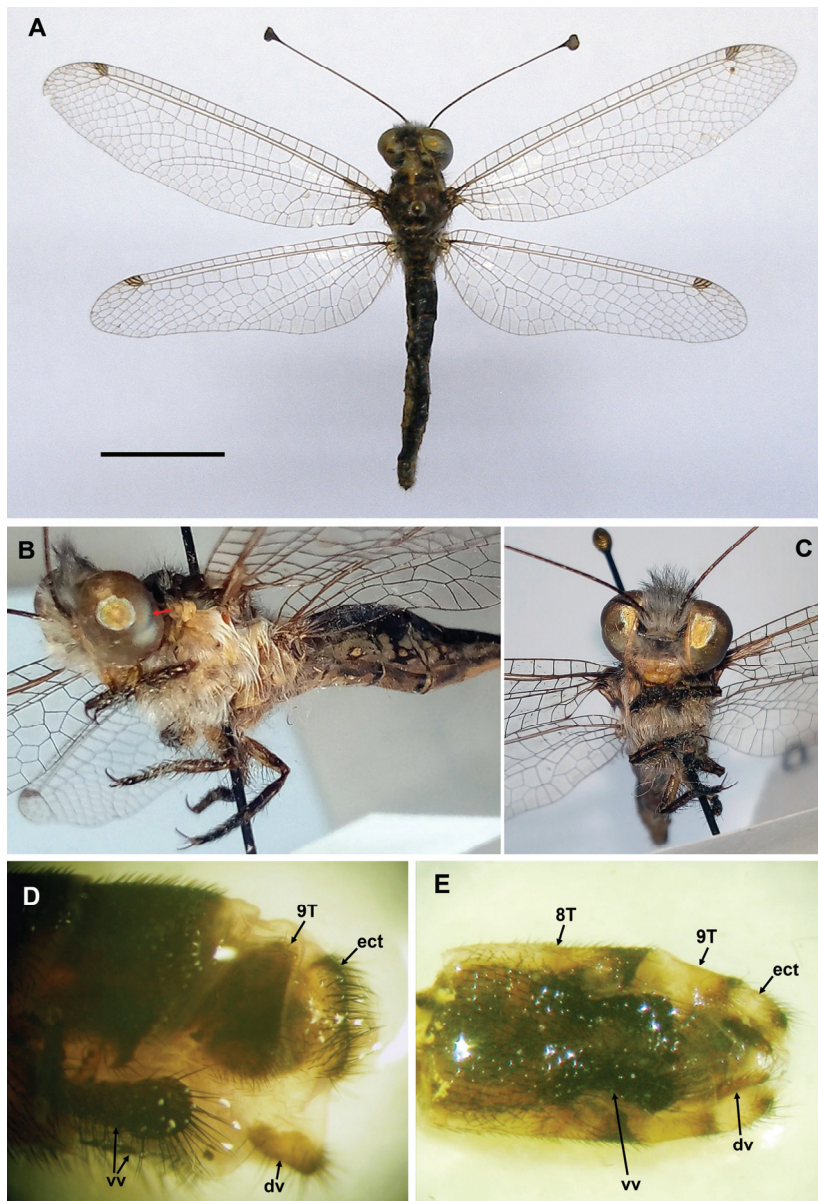


Fig. 2. *Fillus ?amazonicus* Machado et Rafael, 2011 from Venezuela: A – habitus of the female, dorsal view; B – lateral view of the specimen (arrow shows the transverse depression of the eye); C – head, frontal view; D – apex of abdomen, lateral view; E – same, ventral view. dv, distivalva; ect, ectoptoct; 8T, 9T, 8th and 9th tergites; vv, ventrovalva. Scale bar: 10 mm (B–E not to scale) (photos by A.A. Lastukhin).

The distal half of the Venezuelan female hind wing is distinctly narrower than that of the male holotype of *F. amazonicus* (Machado & Rafael, 2011, fig. 3).

The genitalia of the Venezuelan female are also very similar to those of the Brazilian females (Machado & Rafael, 2011: figs 11, 12). However, the distivala of the Venezuelan female appears to be shorter (Figs 2D, E).

The differences in the relative length of the antennae and the width of the distal half of the hind wing between the Brazilian and Venezuelan specimens might be intraspecific variation. These characters vary even in Brazilian males (R. Machado, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, we could not examine the females of *F. amazonicus* or their photographs. Therefore, it remains unclear if this Venezuelan female belongs to *F. amazonicus* or to a new, very closely related species. Collection of a male should resolve the question.

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Address: Federal Scientific Center of the East Asia Terrestrial Biodiversity (former Institute of Biology and Soil Science), Far East Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, 690022, Vladivostok-22, Russia.

E-mail: storozhenko@biosoil.ru

web-site: <http://www.biosoil.ru/fee>