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A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *TAPINELLA* ENDERLEIN, 1908 (PSOCODEA: INSECTA) FROM AMAZON RAINFOREST, FRENCH GUIANA

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Summary. New species *Tapinella mishevi* sp. n. is described from French Guiana. The holotype female was collected from dry *Cecropia* leaves in a rainforest edge habitat near a road between Regina and St. George. The new species is most similar to *T. fusca* Badonnel, 1977 from Angola but differs in wing venation, eye coloration, and leg pigmentation. It also shares some characteristics with *T. candida* New, 1974 from Australia.

Key words: insects, biodiversity, taxonomy, new species, South America.

Д. Георгиев. Новый вид рода *Tapinella* Enderlein, 1908 (Psocodea: Insecta) из тропических лесов Амазонки, Французская Гвиана // Дальневосточный энтомолог. 2025. N 526. С. 1-5.

Резюме. Из Французской Гвианы описан *Tapinella mishevi* sp. n. Самка (голотип) была собрана на сухих листьях *Cecropia* на опушке тропического леса недалеко от дороги между Реджайной и Сент-Джорджем. Новый вид наиболее сходен с *T. fusca* Badonnel, 1977 из Анголы, но отличается от последнего

жилкованием крыльев, окраской глаз и пигментацией ног. Новый вид также имеет некоторые общие характеристики с *T. candida* New, 1974 из Австралии.

INTRODUCTION

The species of the genus *Tapinella* Enderlein, 1908 predominantly inhabit the warmer regions of the Earth, namely the equatorial and tropical zones. A total of 44 valid species from this genus are known to date (Lienhard, 2016; Georgiev, 2023a, b, c). In French Guiana, very few psocid species are known (Georgiev, 2023d). Overall, the entire Amazon region remains extremely underexplored, and many new species for science are expected to be discovered. On the other hand, coastal and urbanized areas are habitats for many more adaptable species, widely transported across the tropics with plant parts such as fruits, seedlings, and others.

In this brief article, I describe a new species of *Tapinella* collected from natural habitat in the rainforest. This is the second one described from this area after *T. montjoliensis* Georgiev, 2023, collected about a year and a half ago.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Psocoptera specimens were collected from French Guiana during February – March 2025 by beating the vegetation. The collected material was stored in 95% ethanol, and later has been deposited at the National Museum of Natural History, Sofia, Bulgaria (NMNH).

Measurements abbreviations: LC – body length; F+tr – hind femur and trochanter length; T – hind tibia length; t1, t2, t3 – tarsomeres of hindtarsus (lengths measured from condyle to condyle); P4 – terminal palp segment, FW – forewing; HW – hindwing; D – anteroposterior diameter of the compound eye; IO – shortest distance between compound eyes.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES

Family Tapinellidae Enderlein, 1908

Tapinella mishevi Georgiev, sp. n.

<https://zoobank.org/NomenclaturalActs/6C5A285D-9B3F-4BDB-98AD-4568454F8795>

Fig 1 A–D

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype – ♀, **French Guiana**: road between Regina and St George towns, 4°08'50.4"N, 52°06'10.8"W, 70 m a. s. l., rainforest edge near a road, dry *Cecropia* sp. leaf, hanging on branches of bushes, beating the vegetation, 26.II 2025, D. Georgiev leg. (NMNH).

DESCRIPTION. Coloration (after 23 days in 95% ethanol): the specimen is generally gray-brown. The abdomen is lighter, cream-colored, with two parallel lateral lines. The apex is darker. The dorsal part of the head is dark, as are the antennae. Ventrally, it is light, including the labrum. Compound eyes are rusty-brown. Ocelli

pale partly surrounded by rusty-brown pigment. The palps have two dark terminal segments (P3, P4); P1 is light, while P2 is mostly light but has a dark distal tip. Thorax is brown dorsally and light ventrally. Legs: The trochanter is dark at the base and light distally. The femur is mostly dark but light at the base. The tibia is light at the distal end, while the tarsi are dark. Wings: The wings are generally black-brown with dark veins. The forewing has a characteristic lightened areas in the Cu2 and R zones. The hindwing is entirely dark, but the CuP vein is white, while all others are dark.

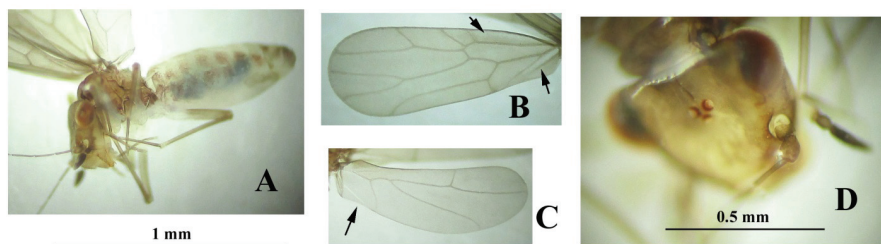


Fig. 1. *Tapinella mishevi* sp. n. (holotype, female): A – general view, B – forewing (light areas shown by an arrow), C – hind wing (white CuP vein shown by an arrow), D – dorsal view of the head. Scale bar of 1 mm for A, B, C and 0.5 mm for D.

Morphology. Subgenital plate with moderately long setae apically and several significantly longer ones laterally. T-sclerite hardly visible, translucent, anchor shaped, with short thick stem and about twice longer tapering arms. Epiproct cone-shaped, paraprocts elongated. Both with two types of setae: long and short. The long setae of the epiproct are same length like these of the paraprocts. The lacinia morphology is similar to this one of *T. curvata* Badonnel, 1949, illustrated by Lienhard (2009).

Male. Unknown.

MEASUREMENTS (in mm). Holotype (female): LC = 1.18; F+tr = 0.54; T = 0.45; t1 = 0.20, t2 = 0.03, t3 = 0.04, P4 = 0.10, FW = 1.10, HW = 0.88, D = 0.15, IO = 0.48, IO/D = 3.2.

DIAGNOSIS. By its general appearance and wing coloration *T. mishevi* sp. n. is similar only with *T. fusca* Badonnel, 1977 described from Angola (Badonnel, 1977). It differs by: white CuP vein of hind wing, rusty-brown compound eyes, unpigmented dorsal abdominal area, entirely dark P4, and different pigmentation of the legs. Besides the color differences, morphological ones can also be added: in the Angolan species, the head is more elongated, the ocelli are more widely spaced, and the body size is larger (LC = 1.8 mm, FW = 1.7 mm).

Another species that resembles *T. mishevi* n. sp. in the depigmented area of the Cu2 cell is *T. candida* New, 1974 from Australia (New, 1974). However, it differs from the latter in the color of the eyes, legs, and antennae, as well as in the hindwing, the shape and structure of the wing venation, the T-sclerite, and the lacinia.

HABITAT. The species was collected at the edge of the Amazonian rainforest near a road, from dry leaves of *Cecropia* sp., hanging on bush and tree branches (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2. Habitat view of the type locality of *Tapinella mishevi* sp. n. (Photo: Todor Mishev).

DISTRIBUTION. Known only from type locality.

ETYMOLOGY. The species is named after my friend and colleague Todor Mishev who cooperated and helped me a lot during the expeditions in the area of French Guiana.

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