A NEW SPECIES OF *CULEX* (MELANOCONION) FROM SOUTHERN BRAZIL (DIPTERA: CULICIDAE)*

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UNITERMOS: *Culex* (Melanoconion) ribeirensis, Culicidae, Insetos vetores.

INTRODUCTION

In the course of ecological studies on mosquitoes and mosquito-borne infections in the Ribeira Valley, in the Southern region of S. Paulo State, Brazil, a species of *Culex* (Melanoconion) presented remarkable dominance in the several types of collection techniques utilized. Initially it was identified as *Cx. crybda*, and some data on its behaviour were reported under this name (Forattini and coll. 1, 1981). Studies made in another similar regions, also showed the presence of this mosquito, identified as the same manner (Oliveira 4, 1984). More detailed studies led to the conclusion that it was an as yet undescribed species, distinct from *crybda* and others which are close to it. So we take this opportunity to describe and name this new species.

For the description the terminology utilized was that of Harbach and Knight 2 (1980), with some modifications made by Harbach, Peyton and Harrison 3 (1984), the general lines of whose description have been followed in this paper.

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area with other falcate scales predominantly dark; a little lateral set of broad dingy clear scales; forked scales dark; ocular and interocular setae lengthy, dark or with golden sheen. *Cibarial armature* (Fig. 1 C, D, E, F and Fig. 3 CA, Ct). — Cibarial ridge concave, with almost 20 or a few more cibarial teeth with sizes gradually smaller in a lateral direction; cibarial teeth fold shaped like pan tiles, borne on the transverse ridge, dorsally bearing a spatulated hyaline rod slightly serrulated at apex, and with a smaller prickle followed by a short and light longitudinal ridge appearing as a little crest situated between the cibarial teeth. Cibarial dome as a nearly circular outline concave cap entirely built by superficial sharp pointed denticles.

**Thorax.** — Integument dark brown. Scutum entirely covereb by fine narrow bronzy sheen dark scales, with some clear ones variously disposed, in a patchy manner, on the anterior promontory, the prescutal suture, ante and supraalar and prescutellar areas; infrequently specimens may show an entirely dark clothed scutum; scutal setae developed and bronzy shining; acrostichal setae absent. Scutellar scales looking like the scutal one, frequently mixed with some clear others. Antepronotum without scales, with bronzy setae disposed almost in a row on the anterolateral surface. Postpronotum with narrow dark scales, as the scutum ones, sometimes with a small number of clear others situated near the spiracle region; posteroventral margin with 5-8 long dark setae. Pleural sclerites with similar tonality or a little clear than the scutum; proepisternum, postspiracular area, prealar knob, anteriorinferior region of mesokatepisternum, inferior and superior regions of mesepimeron, all of them with dark areas pattern, but leaving the median mesepimeron area crossed by a clear band of varying breadth. Pleura with a characteristic patch of broad spatulate whitish scales situated on the upper corner and posteroinferior margin of the mesokatepisternum with whitish scales (Fig. 1H, I); pleural setae dark brown and golden shining, a few darker ones in the prealar knob; setae 15-21 upper proepisternals, 5-12 prealars, 7-11 upper mesokatepisternals, 11-14 lower mesokatepisternals, 15-21 upper mesepimerals and one, or, occasionally, two lower mesepimerals. **Wing.** — Mean length 3.25 mm (± = 0.27); scales dark; subcosta reach costa at the same level or a little before the Rs + 3 furcation. Dorsal scaling (Fig. 1 G); appressed spatulate scales on costa, subcosta, R, Rs, mcu, CuA and 0.5 basal of M and of 1A; linear plume scales on Rs, Rs + 3, proximally Rs + 5, M and M1 + 5; inclined, narrow spatulate scales on R1, Rn, Rs + 3, R2, Rs, R4 + 5, M1 + 5, M1, M2, CuA and 1A; remigium with appressed spatulate scales and 3 distal strong setae. Ventral scaling (Fig. 1 J): appressed spatulate scales on costa, subcosta, R, Rs, Rs + 3, R2, Rs, M1 and M1 + 5; linear plume scales on proximally R1, Rn, Rs + 3, proximally Rs + 5, distally M, M1 + 2, M3 + 4, CuA after mcu, and 1A; inclined, narrow spatulate scales on distally R1, Rn, Rs, Rs, M1, M2, M3 + 4, distally CuA and 1A, proximally, both CuA and 1A devoid of scales. **Halter.** — Scabellum and pedicel pale; capitellum entirely covered by clear scales. **Legs.** — Entirely dark-scaled, without pale band pattern; posteroventral surface of femora pale-scaled. **Abdomen.** — Terga dark-scaled with basolateral pale scales, sometimes becoming basal pale bands of various breadth. Sterna basally covered by pale scales and distally by dark ones. **Genitalia** (Fig. 2). — Tergum X narrow in middle and widened at posterolateral margin where there are 10 or a little more setae on each side. Upper vaginal lip distinct and narrow, lower one indistinct; insula indistinct, with about 8-10 clustered insular setae. Upper vaginal sclerite as an inverted U—shaped thic-
kened at base. Postgenital lobe short, triangular or trapezoidal shaped, distally narrowed, with 7-10 setae on either midline side, mostly on ventral surface.

MALE. — Like female except for the sexual differences presented as follow.

**Head.** — Antenna strongly plumose with length about 2.0 mm. Maxillary palpus entirely dark, length about 2.6 mm, exceeding the proboscis tip through the distal fourth of palpomere 4 and all palpomeres 4 and 5 entirely covered by strong setae; palpomere 3 with strong setae only in the distal region. **Abdomen.** — Tergum II entirely dark or with a little patch of pale scales in the median basal area; terga III-VII with basal pale-scaled band; tergum VIII (ventral in position) without pale scales and with a deep V-shaped median posterior emargination (Fig. 2), sternum VIII (dorsal in position) with basolateral pale spots. **Genitalia** (Fig. 2). — Tergal IX lobes small, cone-shaped, widely separated and bearing slender setae. Gonocoxite stocky and ovoid shaped, outer margin convex, inner moderately concave; ventrolateral surface with dark strongly developed setae, scattered scales on the ventrolateral surface base, mesal surface with some variable rows of slender setae extending from base to subapical lobe level, another patch of smaller ones situated below this lobe; lateral surface with a patch of short scattered setae at the apical region corresponding to the level of the subapical lobe; subapical lobe clearly divided, divisions clearly separated; proximal division undivided, lengthened, with an apical infundibular expansion partially covering the two, a and b setae insertions, which are long, enlarged and slightly sinuous, another hooked-falciform seta in subdistal position, two smaller subbasal and some basal others sparse short setae; distal division with two arms each bearing apical inserted setae, the basal one with 1 long hooked h and 2 saberlike s, one of which is larger than the other, the apical arm with 2 long saberlike s setae and 3 flat setae f with different lengths one of them much more short than the two others. Gonostylus slender, curved, moderate distally widened, crest slightly wrinkled before the apical beak; gonostylyar claw folded leaf-like. Phallosome with lateral plates and aedeagal sclerites equivalent in size and length, separated by a not clearly delimited low quitinized striped area, giving to the whole an open S appearance at lateral view; lateral plate with ventral, lateral and dorsal processes, the ventral one short, triangular and laterally bent, the lateral process longer, slender, tapered, pointed at apex and dorsolaterally directed, the dorsal process stout and situated at base of lateral plate; aedeagal sclerite broad and curved in lateral view, with anterior margin thickened, dorsal end appearing a thick right angle, connected with the other by a dorsal aedeagal bridge; paramere and basal plate roughly triangular shaped and with blunted end. Proctigiter elongate; paraprocto distally narrowed and basally expanded where it is articulated with the basal plate and the posterolateral margin of the tergum X, crown with 8-10 flat rectangular simple blades; cereal sclerite narrow, elongate, looking like a stripe lightly quitinized; cereal setae very small; tergum X somewhat rectangular and concavo-convex.

**PUPA** (Fig. 3). — General aspect of chaetotaxy as figured. **Cephalothorax.** — Slightly pigmented. Seta 1-CT lengthy, double; 2-CT with 3 or 4 branches; 3-CT similar to 1-CT, simple or double; 4-CT double or with 3 branches; 5-CT with 2-4 branches; 6-CT simple; 7-CT with 2-3 branches; 8-CT with 2-4 branches; 9-CT with 2-3 branches; 10-CT fanlike with 8-10 dendritic branches; 11-CT lengthy, double; 12-CT usually triple.
infrequently with 4 branches. **Trumpet.**

- Heavily pigmented funnel-shaped; index 6.3-7.7; tracheoid area with same tone, extending about 0.5 from base; pinna large, prolonged with the meatus slit forming a whole triangular outlined; pinna-slit length corresponding to a little more than 0.5 of that the trumpet one.

**Abdomen.** — Pigmented like the cephalothorax, a little more heavily on the anterior margins of terga II-VII; the VIII with more diffused pigmentation; length 2.48-3.03 mm. Segments I-III: seta 4-I with 3-5 branches; 1-II multiple with 20-30 branches; 1-III with 6-10 branches; 3-I-III double; 5-III with 3-6 branches; 6-III lengthy, double. Segments IV-VIII: seta 1-IV with 7-11 branches; 1-V with 5-8 branches; 1-VI with 2-5 branches; 1-VII double or triple; 5-IV with 6-9 branches; 5-V with 4-6 branches; 5-VI with 2-4 branches; 6-IV-VI lengthy, double; 9-VI strong and simple; 9-VII similar to 9-VI, inserted on the posterolateral angle.

**Genital lobe.** — Lightly pigmented in female, darker in male; length about 0.12-0.13 mm in female, 0.26 mm in male. **Paddle.** — Diffusively pigmented; midrib developed and heavily pigmented; buttress developed at base and darker than the paddle general tone; margins smooth; length 0.60-0.79 mm, width 0.45-0.50 mm, index 1.30-1.58. Setae 1-P and 2-P simple and slender.

**LARVA (Fig. 4).** — General aspect of chaetotaxy as figured. **Head.** — Wider than long; length 0.68-0.69 mm, width 0.93-0.97 mm; diffusively pigmented, apart from some little defined areas symmetrically situated on the posterior part of dorsal apotome and on lateralia. Labiogula longer than broad, broader posteriorly; hypostomal suture complete, extended from the posterior tentorial pit to the collar. Collar poorly developed, heavily pigmented. Dorsonomentum with a median tooth larger than the 7 lateral ones disposed at either side. Seta 1-C spiniform, dark; 2-C absent; 3-C very small; 4-C developed with 3-5 branches; 5-C greatly developed fanlike with 6-7 branches heavily aciculate; 6-C lengthy, simple aciculate; 8-C small with 4-7 branches; 9-C similar to 8-C, with 7-10 branches; 10-C with 3-4 slender branches; 11-C strong, with 5-8 branches; 13-C developed with 5-8 branches, inserted posteriorly to 11-C; 14-C slender double or triple; 15-C with 3-5 branches, inserted posteriorly to 14-C. **Antenna.**

- Length 0.51-0.57 mm; heavily pigmented, more densely spiny on the proximal part of flagellum and lesser on the laterodistal one near seta 1-A. Scape developed; pedicel weak and hardly perceptible. Antennal puncture distinct. Seta 1-A developed, with 28-30 aciculate branches, inserted 0.77-0.81 from the base; setae 2, 3-A lengthy, dark, straighter, sharpened, apically inserted. **Thorax.**

- Integument hyaline, covered with tiny spicules, more conspicuous on the prothorax. Setae 1-3-P and 9-12-P,M,T inserted on common moderately pigmented tubercle. **Prothorax.** — Setae 1,2-P lengthy, simple aciculate; 3-P about 0.25 of the 1,2-P length, with 6-11 branches; 4-P double, lengthy, aciculate; 5,6-P simple, lengthy; 7-P with 5-7 branches; 8-P with 3-6 branches. **Mesothorax.** — Seta 1-M fanlike developed, with 5-11 slightly aciculate branches; 2-M smaller than 1-M, with 3-6 branches. **Metathorax.** — Seta 1-T small, with 3-4 slender branches; 3-T with 6-8 branches; 13-T similar to 1-M, with 8-13 branches. **Abdomen.** — Integument hyaline, entirely smooth. Setae 6-I,II, 7-I and 2,3-VIII inserted on moderately pigmented tubercles. Segments I-VI: Setae 1,2-I,II slender, simple or double, occasionally 1-II triple; 6-I lengthy and strong, triple, unequal branches, one branch shorter; 6-II similar to 6-I, triple, occasionally with 4 branches; 6-III-V developed, with 3-7 aciculate branches; 6-VI with 3-5
aciculate branches; 7-I lengthy, double, with subequal branches; 7-II-V slender, with 5-13 branches; 7-VI with 5-8 branches; 1-III-VI with 7-12 strong branches; 13-III-V developed, with 6-10 branches. Segment VII: Seta 1-VII developed, with 5-12 branches; 4-VII slender, with 3-4 branches; 7-VII slender, with 4-8 branches; 10-VII triple occasionally with 4 branches; 13-VII developed, with 9-13 branches occasionally with fewer, until 4-5 branches. Segment VIII: Seta 1-VIII with 5-8 heavily aciculate branches; 2-VIII slender and lengthy, double or triple; 3-VIII with 7-9 heavily aciculate branches; 4-VIII lengthy and simple; 5-VIII with 7-9 strong branches. Comb with 38-56 scales arranged in 4 roughly irregular rows, the anterior scales shorter than the posterior ones; scales normally fringed on sides and apex, apically more distinct than on the side; comb forming a whole nearly triangular outline, with the integument more chitinized and covered with patches of tiny spicules giving to the region an striated aspect.

Siphon. — Index 5.8-8.3 (width measured at base); acus and basal ring heavily pigmented, the rest with lightly diffused pigmentation; acus length and narrow. Pecten of 9-12 spines increasing in size from base of siphon, distal ones a little more spaced; ventral margin of spines occupied by a larger basal tooth, following by a series of little teeth resulting in a whole nearly triangular outline, with formed by 6 pairs of multiple setae and 1 pair of simple ones; the first four basal 1-S with length a little more than width of siphon at point of insertions, the others with length less than width of siphon at point of insertion; 2-S inserted in membrane near base of anterolateral spiracular lobe, curved ventrally with slender secondary spiny submedian branch. Segment X. — Saddle complete, without acus and spicules; length 0.30-0.37 mm; siphon/saddle index 3.8-4.3. Seta 1-X with 3-7 branches; 2-X with 5 branches, one of them longer than the others; 3-X simple and lengthy; 4-X with 6 paired setae, 3 anterior pairs with 5-10 branches, 3 posterior ones with 8-11 branches, all setae borne on grid anteriorly attached to saddle. Anal papillae long and slender, a little more length than the saddle.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. — The specimens examined numbered 145 related as follows. Holotype. — Female with associated larval and pupal exuviae, collected in the Experimental Station of the Ribeira Valley, Pariguera-Açú County, S. Paulo State, Brazil, 5.IV.1984, Coll. C.P. Forattini and C. Casanova, as a larva from a ditch in open land with semipermanent fresh water, covered by molasses grass, at an elevation of 26 m, deposited in the Entomological Collection of the Department of Epidemiology of the School of Public Health, University of S. Paulo, Brazil (FSP-USP), (n. E-6879). Paratypes. — 55 males (2 with larval and pupal exuviae), 76 females (5 with larval and pupal exuviae), 2 larvae, from several localities of S. Paulo State, Brazil. Deposited in the FSP-USP (ns. E-6880 to 6976): 2 males with associated larval and pupal exuviae (Itapuã, Cananéia, III.82, 1 8; Experimental Station, Pariguera-Açú, IV.84, 1 8), 18 males (Experimental Station, Pariguera-Açú, I, III, IV, V, XI.79, I, XI.80, 11 8 8; Ariri, Cananéia, III.79, 1 8; Pariguera-Açú, urban area, III.79, 1 8; Taquaru, Cananéia, I.80, 1 8; Itapuã, Cananéia, IV.81, 1 8; Biguá Road, Iguape, X.82, 1 8; Jacaré-Pipira, Dourado, VII.80, I.81, 2 8 8); 3 females with associated larval and pupal exuviae (Biguá Road, Iguape, III.84, 2 8 8; Experimental Station, Pariguera-Açú, IV.84, 1 8), 20 females (Experimental Station, Pariguera-Açú, III, VII, VIII, X, XI, XII.78, I, II, VII, VIII, X.79, I, XI.79, I, VI.80, 14 8 8; Jacaré-Pipira, Dourado, IV.80, VII.82, 3 8 8; Fazenda Lupo, Araraqua-
ra, V, XI. 81, 2 ♀ ♂; Biguá Road, Igua-
pe, IX. 92, 1 ♀), 2 larvae (Experimental
Station, Pariquera-Açu, II. 85). Deposit-
ed in the National Museum of Natural
History, Smithsonian Institution, Wash-
ington, D.C.: From the Experimental
Station, Pariquera-Açu, 5 males (I, III.
79), 1 female with associated larval and
pupal exuviae (IV. 84), 5 females (V,
XII. 79, 2 ♀ ♂; VI. 80, 1 ♀; VII. 80, 2
♀ ♂). Deposited in the British Museum
(Natural History): From Experimental
Station, Pariquera-Açu, 3 males (III.79,
2 ♂ ♀; V.79, 1 ♀), 1 female with asso-
ciated larval and pupal exuviae (IV. 84),
5 females (V, XII. 79, VI. 80, 3 ♀ ♀;
VII. 80, 2 ♀ ♂), from Ariri, Cananéia,
2 males (III.79). Deposited in the "Ins-
tituto Oswaldo Cruz, Departamento de
Entomologia", Rio de Janeiro, RJ: From
the Experimental Station, Pariquera-Açu,
5 males (V.79, 3 ♂ ♀; IX, X.79), 5
females (IX. 78; X. 78, 2 ♀ ♂; XII.79;
II. 81). For exchange: 20 males (Experi-
mental Station, Pariquera-Açu, XII. 78, I,
II, III, IV, V, VI. 79, III. 80, IV. 82,
14 ♀ ♂; Ariri, Cananéia, III. 79, 1
♂; Jacaré-Pipira, Dourado, V, VI. 80, I,
II. 81, 5 ♂ ♀), 36 females (Experimental
Station, Pariquera-Açu, IX, X, XI, XII.
78, I, II, V, VIII, X, XII. 79, I, II,
VII. 80, III, VII. 81, 30 ♀ ♂; Jacaré-Pi-
pira, Dourado, X, XII. 80, V. 81, 3 ♀ ♂;
Fazenda Lupo, Araraquara, XII.81, II.
82, 3 ♀ ♂). Other specimens. — 2 fe-
males (Jacarepaguá, Rio de Janeiro State,
Brazil, R.L. Oliveira col. X. 82); Cx.
adamesi, 1 male Paratype (Panamá, 63),
2 males (Belém, 49), 2 females (Colom-
bia); Cx. crybda, 2 males (Panamá, 63),
1 female (Panamá, 63), 1 female (Trini-
dad, 63/64).

DISTRIBUTION AND BIONOMICS.
— Culex ribeirensis seems to be wides-
pread in the Southern Brazil Region.
Probably it extends as far as the geo-
graphical area of the Tropical Atlantic
System. It was found in several localities
of S. Paulo State, being quite commonly
found in regions near the Atlantic Coast
and at low elevations above sea level.
The finding of this mosquito in the coast
areas of Rio de Janeiro State too, seems
to support this hypothesis.

Adults show some degree of anthro-
ophilic habits, and the species was usually
found near human settlements in the mo-
dified environment. Up to the present
breeding places have been found in these
situations, constantly associated with
densely grown land vegetation, such as
grasses and several hydrophyte or aquatic
plants (Fig. 1 K). In these places water
is usually fresh and shaded.

DISCUSSION. — Culex ribeirensis
was early confused with Cx. crybda. Ne-
evertheless, it may be distinguished by
the characteristic patch of clear scales
found on the superior mesokatepisternum,
absent in crybda. It may be separated
from Cx. epanastasis and Cx. pedroi by
the entirely dark aspect of the tarsi in
ribeirensis, contrasting with the white
ring pattern present in the hind tarsome-
teres 1-4 joints and the entire 5 hind one,
found in that species. Beside this, there
are accentuated differential characters
with epanastasis, related to the morpho-
logy of male genitalia, as the lateral pro-
cess of the aedeagal lateral plate, who
is simple and lengthy in ribeirensis,
and the peculiar aspects of distal division
of the subapical lobe. Cx. adamesi may be
distinguished from it by the forked scales
of vertex, forming a whole clear in its
central part and dark in the posterolateral
one, while it is entirely dark in ribeirensis.

About the pupa, seta 10-CT in ada-
mesi, crybda and pedroi appears as fan-
like with simple branches, contrasting with
the fanlike aspect but with dendritic
branches in ribeirensis. Besides that, in
pedroi this seta usually shows a higher
number of branches, sometimes reaching
the double of those found in ribeirensis.
The seta 6-III-VI is usually double in ribeirensis and simple in crybda. Setae 1-III-V are fanlike usually bearing a higher number of branches in ribeirensis (5-11) than in crybda (3-6). Seta 9-VII is developed, simple in ribeirensis and adamesi but double in pedroi, while the 9-VIII is also developed simple in ribeirensis, but double in adamesi and pedroi. As for crybda, both these setae are slender, shorter and double or triple.

The larva of ribeirensis can be distinguished mainly by the aspect of setae 4-C and 1-M, which are fanlike, the first one with 3-5 simple branches, the second with 5-11 aciculate branches. In adamesi, crybda and pedroi the 4-C is forked, double or with a slightly larger number of branches, while the 1-M is minute, simple and inconspicuous. Seta 1-T is 3,4 branched in ribeirensis, simple minute in adamesi, crybda and pedroi. Seta 13-T is similar to 1-M in ribeirensis while, though fanlike too, in adamesi and crybda presents simple, slender and shorter branches. Beyond that, setae 2,3-C are present in crybda, while 2-C is absent in adamesi and ribeirensis.


**ABSTRACT:** A new species from Southern Brazil, named *Culex* (Melanoconion) *ribeirensis* is described. The description includes adults, pupal and larval stages, illustrating the morphological aspects and a picture of a breeding place. Some data about known distribution and bionomics are presented.

**UNITERMS:** *Culex* (Melanoconion) *ribeirensis*. *Culex*. Insect vectors.

**REFERENCES**


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Fig. 1 — Female: A and B — dorsal aspect of head showing falcate and forked scales; C — dorsal aspect of cibarial armature; D — detail of figure C focusing the cibarial teeth; E — posterodorsal aspect of cibarial armature; F — detail of figure E focusing the cibarial teeth; G — dorsal aspect of distal right wing scaling; H — aspect of the lateral right side of thorax showing upper mesokatepisternal scale patch; I — detail of figure H focusing the upper mesokatepisternal scales; J — ventral aspect of distal right wing scaling.

Collection place: K — environmental view of the locality in Iguaçu County, S. Paulo State, Brazil, where immature stages were collected. Breeding places were found in the lateral road ditches, densely covered by molasses grass and situated near to human settlements.

Figs. 2-4 — Abreviaturas usadas:
- a — seta a of pSL
- A — antenna
- Aes — edesegal seteite
- b — seta b of pSL
- BP — basal piece
- C — cranium
- CA — cibarial armature
- Ce — cercus
- Crid — cibarial ridge (ventral view, represented by weak shading)
- CS — comb scale
- CSc — cercal seteite
- Ct — cibarial tooth
- CT — cephalothorax
- Dm — dorsomeminent
- dSL — distal division of subapical lobe
- f — flat seta of dSL (= foliiform)
- Gc — gonocoite
- Gs — gonostylus
- h — hooked seta of dSL
- IsS — isal seta
- LP — lateral plate
- M — mesothorax
- MPlp — maxillary, palp
- p — puncture
- P — prothorax
- Pa — paddle
- Pgr — paramere
- PGL — postgenital lobe
- Prp — paraproct
- PSE — pecten spine. pS — proximal division of subapical lobe
- s — sabellike seta of dSL (= saber)
- S — siphon
- T — metathorax
- Tr — trumpet
- UV — upper vaginal lip
- UVS — upper vaginal sclerite
- IX — abdominal segments
- VIII-Te — tergum VIII
- IX-Te — tergum IX
- IX-TL — ninth tergal lobe
- X-Te — tergum X (= basolateral sclerotization)
Fig. 3

Cx. (Mel.) ribeirensis