NOTES ON THE GENUS SUILLIA IN MEXICO, WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES

(DIPTERA: HELEOMYZIDAE)

GEORGE C. STEYSKAL, Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture¹

ABSTRACT—Suillia valleyi, new species, is described and a key to the species of Suillia known to occur in Mexico is presented.

Four species of Suillia Robineau-Desvoidy were described from Mexico more than 70 years ago (Gill, 1968:7), but apparently no specimen of 3 of them (S. distigma, S. polystigma, and S. punctulata, all by Wulp, 1897) has been seen since and their only appearance in the literature has been copies of the original descriptions and attempts at placing them in keys on the basis of those descriptions (Aldrich and Darlington, 1908; Czerny, 1904, 1924; Steyskal, 1944). The 4th species, S. iniens (Giglio-Tos, 1893, 1895) has been accorded the same treatment, except that Wulp recorded additional material at the same time that he presented the descriptions of the other species.

Recently Karl Valley presented the U.S. National Museum with a fine pair of *Suillia iniens* taken at Tenancingo, Mex., Mexico, elevation 2022 m, 2 August 1969 (K. Valley). There is in USNM also a specimen of S. *iniens* taken by O. S. Flint, Jr., at Tecojotes, Oaxaca, Mexico, 8 June 1967. Also taken by Mr. Valley at the same time he took the S. *iniens* was a specimen of the new species described below.

As Wulp stated in 1897, S. *iniens* was well described for its time and is quite recognizable. Czerny erred, however, in presuming that its mesopleuron is bare. I am grateful to Brian H. Cogan, of the British Museum (Natural History) for determining from the type specimens that the mesopleuron of all of the Mexican species except S. *punctulata* have hairs on the mesopleuron. In S. *iniens* there are numerous setae on the posterior half of the mesopleuron. The black spot laterad of the ocellar field (Czerny, 1924:10) consists of an infuscated border around the frontal plates.

Suillia valleyi, n. sp. (Fig. 1)

Female. Length of wing 5.5 mm. Body generally tawny, blackish as follows: orbito-antennal spot; tip of palpus; apical 0.28 of fore, 0.25 of middle and hind tibiae; subbasal annulus of hind tibia; preapical blotch on inner and lower side of fore femur; rather small preapical blotch on lower side of middle and hind femora;

¹ Mail address: c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20560.

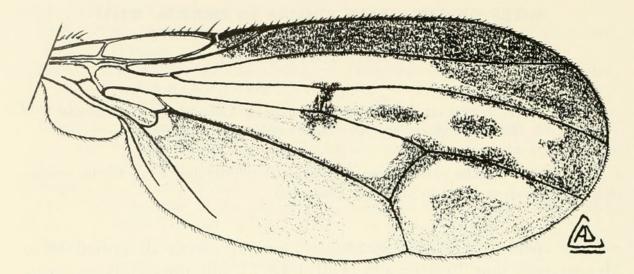


Fig. 1. Suillia valleyi, n. sp.: wing.

more or less of apical part of 2nd and all of apical 3 segments of tarsi; border of abdominal terga laterad of lateral bristles; rather narrow lateral margin of abdominal terga laterad of lateral bristles; rather narrow lateral margin of abdominal sterna. Brown markings are as follows: supracervical blotch; horizontal band across occiput just above neck; margins of frontal plates; apical extension of ocellar triangle; extreme base of fore coxa and margin of prosternal membranous area; rather indistinct basal parts of all femora; complete band from lower side of humerus to metathoracic spiracle; narrow median longitudinal mesoscutal stripe; spots at base of dc bristles; irregular supra-alar stripe; fine dots at base of mesoscutal setulae; postscutellar roll; broad but indistinctly margined median longitudinal dorsal abdominal stripe.

Wing venation and color pattern as in fig. 1; humeral and costal cells and middle part of wing generally tawny, markings dark brown, posterior part of wing smoky.

Special chaetotaxy: aristal hairs spreading to distance equal to width of 3rd antennal segment; posterior half of mesopleuron bearing numerous setulae; 5 setulae on anterior part of pteropleuron; dorsal surface of scutellum with numerous setulae over entire surface; hind femur with 3 strong dorsal bristles, all apicad of middle; row of anterior bristles in basal half of hind femur scarcely distinguishable from surrounding setulae.

Holotype, female Route 55 at Tenancingo, Mex., Mexico, elevation 2022 m, 2 August 1969 (Karl R. Valley), no. 71491 in USNM. The specific name is a genitive form of the collector's name.

KEY TO MEXICAN SPECIES OF Suillia R.-D.

1 (2) Marginal cell of wing with row of 8 dark spots blending anteriorly with dark costal border; 1st posterior cell with 5 dark median spots; hairs present on mesopleuron; hairs of arista very short ______

S. polystigma (Wulp)

2 (1) Marginal cell beyond pterostigma more or less uniformly darkened, at most with ill-defined preapical pale area; 1st posterior cell without or with only 2 median spots.

- 3 (6) 1st posterior cell without median spots, or with only light brown streak; mesopleuron haired or bare.
- 4 (5) 1st posterior cell without median streak, with broad dark apical area; darkening on tp not extending laterally at either side along 4th vein; mesopleuron bare; arista plumose ______S. punctulata (Wulp)
- 5 (4) 1st posterior cell with light brown median streak, preapical dark cloud, and apical yellowish area; mesopleuron with hairs; arista shortplumose _______S. iniens (Giglio-Tos)
- 6 (3) 1st posterior cell with 2 median spots; mesopleuron with hairs.
- 8 (7) Median spots of 1st posterior cell elongate-elliptical; last section of 4th vein with dark-bordered median zone narrowly connected with brown seam of *tp* and with dark apex of wing; arista with long plumosity ______ S. *valleyi*, n. sp.

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