

Description of a new species and redescription of two known species of the genus *Telmatoscopus* EATON (Diptera: Psychodidae) from Alabama, USA

[Beschreibung einer neuen Art und Nachbeschreibung zweier bekannter Arten aus der
Gattung *Telmatoscopus* EATON (Diptera: Psychodidae) aus Alabama, USA]

by

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Abstract	A new species of psychodid, <i>Telmatoscopus alabamae</i> spec. nov. , is described and two known species of <i>Telmatoscopus</i> EATON, <i>T. conspicuus</i> (DEL ROSARIO, 1936) stat. et comb. nov. and <i>T. superbus</i> (BANKS, 1894), are redescribed from the Mobile-Tensaw Delta (southern Alabama) on the Gulf Coast of the USA.
Key words	Psychodidae, <i>Telmatoscopus</i> , Nearctic Region, USA, Alabama, systematics, new species, new status, new combination, new records
Zusammenfassung	Eine neue Psychodiden-Art, <i>Telmatoscopus alabamae</i> spec. nov. , wird anhand von Exemplaren aus dem Mobile-Tensaw-Delta an der Golfküste der USA, Bundesstaat Alabama, beschrieben. Zwei weitere Spezies aus der Gattung <i>Telmatoscopus</i> EATON, <i>T. conspicuus</i> (DEL ROSARIO, 1936) stat. et comb. nov. und <i>T. superbus</i> (BANKS, 1894), werden vom gleichen Ort nachbeschrieben.
Stichwörter	Psychodidae, <i>Telmatoscopus</i> , nearktische Region, USA, Alabama, Systematik, neue Art, neuer Status, Neukombination, neue Nachweise

Introduction

The Nearctic psychodid fauna consists of 114 species (POOLE 1996, WAGNER et al. 2008). The genus *Telmatoscopus* EATON, 1904 is obviously paraphyletic and needs urgent revision. We are aware that placement of species in this genus is provisional.

Our recent collections in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta of southern Alabama have begun to reveal a rich psychodid fauna. This delta is a 900-km² wetland that runs from the head of Mobile Bay north to the confluence of the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers. It is the second largest river delta in the United States, and much of it remains in a natural state (HENWOOD et al. 1980). The area consists largely of cypress (*Taxodium*) and gum (*Nyssa*) swamps and bottomland hardwood forests laced with bayous, canals, marshes, and streams. The Mobile-Tensaw Delta, like most large-river systems, is difficult to study; consequently the arthropod fauna of the Delta is poorly known. More generally, much of the insect fauna of the entire state of Alabama, including particularly many families of Diptera, remains little known. For example, of 1288 valid species of Dolichopodidae in America north of Mexico, only 9 are known from Alabama (POLLET et al. 2004). The psychodids of Alabama are similarly poorly known, only about 10 having been recorded from the state. Given the abundance of suitable breeding habitats, from moist soil and tree holes to fully aquatic conditions (QUATE & VOCKEROTH 1981), the number of psychodid species in Alabama can be expected to increase significantly.