

A NOTE ON THE BIOLOGY OF *TERMITORIOXA TERMITOXENA* (BEZZI) (DIPTERA: TEPHRITIDAE)

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Abstract

Termitorioxo termitoxena (Bezzi) breeds beneath bark of standing trees. An earlier association with termite galleries is presumed to be incidental.

Discussion

Termitorioxo termitoxena (Bezzi) is a tropical Australian fruit fly belonging to the tribe Acanthonevrini, most members of which breed in decaying fruit, fallen logs, beneath bark or in native figs (Permkam and Hancock 1995). The type series of *T. termitoxena* was bred from galleries of *Mastotermes darwiniensis* Hill in tree trunks at Darwin (Bezzi 1919).

In the Northern Territory, *T. termitoxena* has been bred from larvae collected in oozing resin beneath the bark of *Terminalia* sp. (Combretaceae) damaged by a cerambycid beetle [1 ♀ examined, Darwin, 31.i.1976, P. I. Whelan]. Permkam and Hancock (1995) also recorded a female ovipositing in the trunk of *Delonix regia* (poinciana: Fabaceae) in Darwin. It is likely that the association of the type series with termites was incidental and that this species normally breeds beneath decaying tree bark, as in the related *Lumirioxo araucariae* (Tryon), which breeds in a wet rot beneath the bark of *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Araucariaceae) (Brimblecombe 1945). Several other genera of Australian Acanthonevrini and Phytalmiini breed or are believed to breed beneath bark. *Austronevra* Permkam & Hancock, *Dacopsis* Hering and *Phytalmia* Gerstaecker breed in fallen logs of *Dysoxylum gaudichaudianum* (Meliaceae) (Dodson and Daniels 1988). *Austrorioxo* Permkam & Hancock and *Copiolepis* Enderlein may also be log breeders. *Acanthonevroides* Permkam & Hancock, *Aridonevra* Permkam & Hancock and *Taeniorioxo* Permkam & Hancock are closely related to *Termitorioxo* Hendel and presumably also breed beneath the bark of standing trees.

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References

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