October, 2019

Dear Editor-in-Chief Zootaxa

Dear Dr. Fernando Álvarez

I am pleased to submit our manuscript: **“The genus *Physoconops* (Diptera: Conopidae) from Chile with the description of a new species: *Physoconops tentenvilu* nov. sp.”** to be considered for its publication as a research article in **Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad**.

Diptera are among the most specious group with deep gaps on its knowledge in South America. Conopidae species, also known as thick-headed flies, are represented mostly in the Neotropical region. Southern South America species of this group are poorly known and many genera are underrepresented in museum collection. Here, we presented the description of a new species of *Physoconops* genus: *P. tentenvilu* nov. sp., from evergreen forest of Valdivia, Chile. In addition, we included a updated checklist and taxonomic key for Chilean *Physoconops* and proportionated a brief discussion of morphological aspects and ecological gaps.

Our work is relevant because thick-headed flies collected from Chile have been scarcely represented in public museums and there is not taxonomic specialist for this family in our country. Therefore, these two new species of *Physoconops* represent an advance in the biodiversity knowledge of the of fly’s family from this region.

We would like to propose to the following reviewers: Joel F. Gibson, Royal of British Columbia museum: [jfgibson@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jfgibson@uoguelph.ca); [jgibson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca](mailto:jgibson@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca); Leonardo Silvestre Gómes Rocha, from Laboratório de Biodiversidade e Sistemática de Diptera, Departamento de Entomologia, Museu Nacional, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro: [leonardo.rocha@ifrj.edu.br](mailto:leonardo.rocha@ifrj.edu.br) and Cátia Antunes Mello-Patiu from the same institution [camello@acd.ufrj.br](mailto:camello@acd.ufrj.br). We would like to manifest conflicts with Mr. Christian González from Institute of Entomology of the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la EducacIón from Chile and we would prefer that this person will not evaluate us.

We declared that all authors agree to its submission and the corresponding author has been authorized by my co-authors. This Article has not been published before and is not concurrently being considered for publication elsewhere and this article does not violate any copyright or other personal proprietary right of any person or entity and it contains no abusive, defamatory, obscene or fraudulent statements, nor any other statements that are unlawful in any way.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Rodrigo M. Barahona-Segovia and co-authors

October, 2019