

A REVIEW OF TWO NEARCTIC SHORE-FLY SPECIES IN THE GENUS  
*PSILOPA* FALLÉN THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THE GENUS  
*CRESSONOMYIA* ARNAUD (DIPTERA: EPHYDRIDAE)

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**Abstract.**—*Psilopa aeneonigra* Loew, a shore fly that was described in *Psilopa* but was for many years placed in the genus *Cressonomyia* Arnaud, is returned to *Psilopa*. A second species, *P. loewi* n. sp. (New Jersey. Ocean: Tuckerton (10 km N; 39°41.3'N, 74°21.6'W), that had been misidentified as *P. aeneonigra* is also recognized and described. The descriptions of these two species include the first illustrations of structures of the male terminalia.

**Key Words:** Diptera, Ephydridae, Nearctic, shore flies, *Cressonomyia*, *Psilopa*

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Hermann Loew (1878) described *Psilopa aeneonigra* from specimens that a Russian diplomat and early promoter of American dipterology, Baron C. R. Osten Sacken, had acquired from Texas (see Osten Sacken 1903 and Smith 1978 for an appreciation and short biography of Osten Sacken). The specimens were subsequently sent to Germany where Loew resided, and after Loew's study and description of the new species, the syntypic series was eventually deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Loew's species, which is now known to be more widespread, and a new species that was misidentified as *P. aeneonigra* are the subjects of this paper. As appropriate, these species are either redescribed or described, including the first illustrations of structures of the male terminalia.

*Psilopa aeneonigra* remained in its original nomenclatural combination for nearly a century until Wirth (1965) transferred the

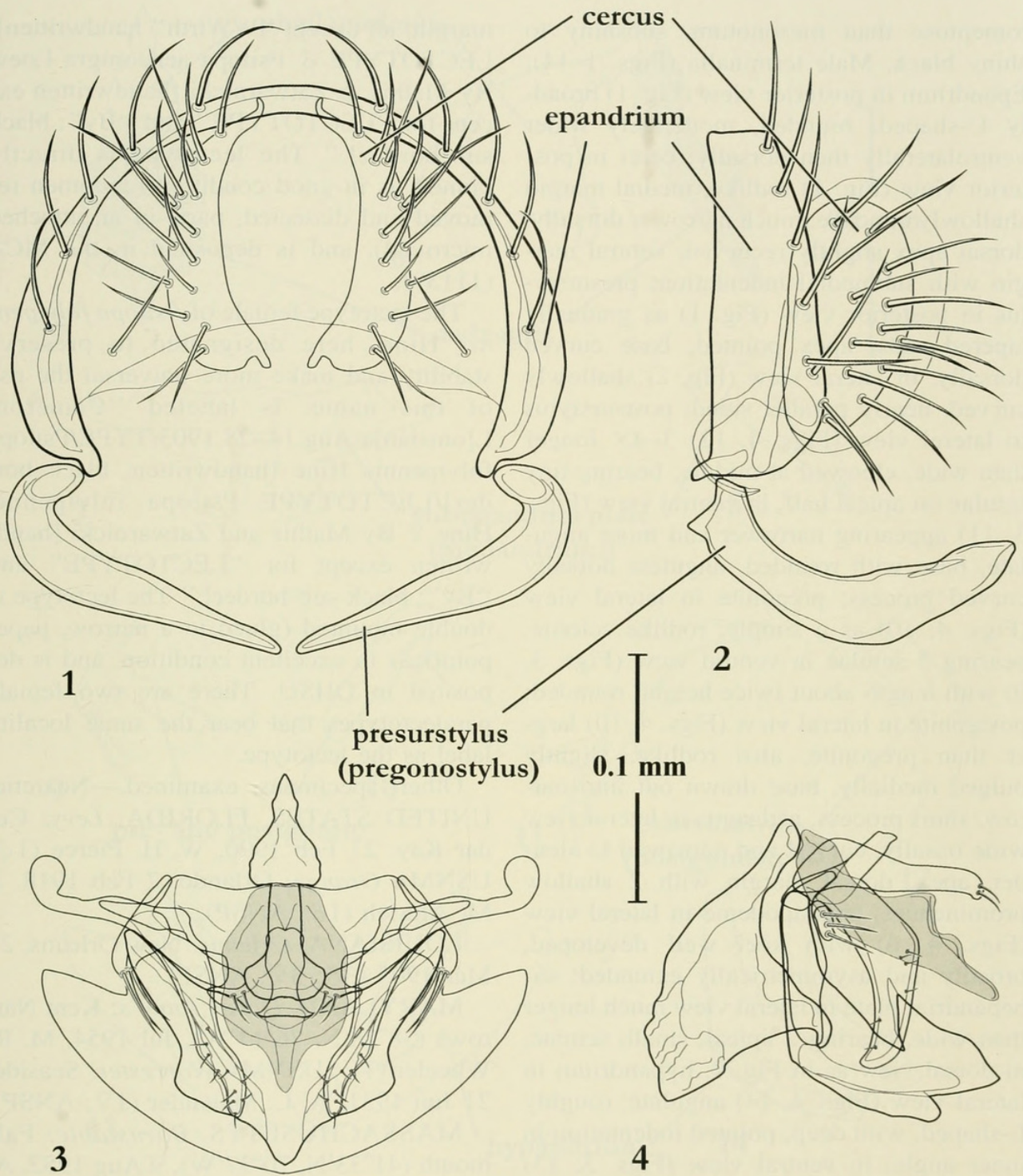
species to the genus *Cressonomyia* Arnaud. The transfer was presumably made because of the slightly darkened base of the wing. Apparently, the darkened base of the wing is a homoplasious condition, as a more extensively darkened base (extending onto the base of the remigium) is a synapomorphy that establishes the sister-group relationship between *Cressonomyia* and *Peltopsiloa* Cresson (Mathis and Zatwarnicki 2004).

This paper is a further result of a recent revision of *Cressonomyia* (Mathis and Zatwarnicki 2004). While studying specimens of *Cressonomyia* we discovered that *P. aeneonigra* is not a congener, and, moreover, that there is a second species that is similar, closely related, and apparently undescribed. These discoveries occurred while studying structures of the male terminalia, which prompted us to re-examine external characters as well. For example, the color of the halter is dark brown to black in *Cressonomyia* (a synapomorphy that further es-









Figs. 1–4. Structures of the male terminalia of *Psilopa aeneonigra* (Massachusetts. Bristol: New Bedford). 1, Epandrium, cerci, and presurstylus, posterior view. 2, Same, lateral view. 3, Internal genitalic structures (aedeagus (shaded), phallapodeme, subepandrial plate, postsurstylus, pregonite, postgonite, and hypandrium), ventral view. 4, Same, lateral view.

ish apicodorsal portion of 1st flagellomere; arista bearing 6 dorsal rays. Face moderately densely microtomentose, mostly flat, bearing 1 large, ventral, cruciate seta.

**Thorax:** Mesonotum sparsely microtomentose, subopaque to subshiny, microgranulose; scutellum triangular, posterior

margin broadly pointed. Wing hyaline, only stem base blackish; costal vein ratio 0.89–0.93; M vein ratio 0.65–0.70. Knob of halter white to pale yellow, stem brownish. Legs black except for yellow apex of tibiae and tarsi, including the apical tarsomere.

**Abdomen:** Tergites more sparsely micro-



tomentose than mesonotum, subshiny to shiny black. Male terminalia (Figs. 1–14): Epandrium in posterior view (Fig. 1) broadly U-shaped, rounded, moderately wider ventrolaterally than dorsally; cerci in posterior view (Fig. 1) rodlike, medial margin shallowly concave, much narrower dorsally, dorsal apex slightly recurved, ventral margin with submedial indentation; presurstylus in posterior view (Fig. 1) as gradually tapered rods, apex pointed, base curved dorsally, in lateral view (Fig. 2) shallowly curved, nearly parallel sided; postsurstylus in lateral view (Figs. 4, 12) 3–4× longer than wide, elbowed at middle, bearing tiny setulae on apical half, in ventral view (Figs. 3, 11) appearing narrower and more angulate, base with rounded, angulate dorsally curved process; pregonite in lateral view (Figs. 4, 10) as a simple, rodlike sclerite, bearing 3 setulae in ventral view (Figs. 3, 9) with length about twice height, rounded; postgonite in lateral view (Figs. 4, 10) larger than pregonite, also rodlike, slightly bulged medially, base drawn out into narrow, short process; aedeagus in lateral view wide basally, curved and narrowed to slender, apex, dorsal margin with 2 shallow prominences; phallapodeme in lateral view (Figs. 4, 6) with keel well developed, broadly and asymmetrically extended; subepandrial plate in lateral view much longer than wide, bearing 2 apical, small, setulae, in dorsal view as in Fig. 7; hypandrium in lateral view (Figs. 4, 14) angulate, roughly L-shaped, with deep, pointed indentation in inner angle, in ventral view (Figs. 3, 13) much wider than long, anterior margin evenly arched, posterior margin concave with sublateral stepped process.

Type material.—The lectotype, which is apparently the only remaining male of *Psilopa aeneonigra* Loew, is here designated to preserve stability and make more universal the use of this name, is labeled “Texas Lefr. [green; handwritten]/Loew Coll./aeneonigra m. [handwritten]/Type 11139 [red; number handwritten]/Cressonomyia aeneonigra (Lw.) WWirth/61 [black sub-

margin; all except “WWirth” handwritten]/LECTOTYPE ♂ *Psilopa aeneonigra* Loew By Mathis & Zatwarnicki [handwritten except for “LECTOTYPE” and “By”; black sub-border].” The lectotype is directly pinned, is in good condition (abdomen removed and dissected, parts in an attached microvial), and is deposited in the MCZ (11139).

The lectotype female of *Psilopa fulvipennis* Hine, here designated to preserve stability and make more universal the use of this name, is labeled “Cameron, L[ouisian]a Aug.14–28,1903/TYPE/*Psilopa fulvipennis* Hine [handwritten; black border]/LECTOTYPE *Psilopa fulvipennis* Hine ♀ By Mathis and Zatwarnicki [handwritten except for “LECTOTYPE” and “By”; black sub-border].” The lectotype is double mounted (glued to a narrow, paper point), is in excellent condition, and is deposited in OHSU. There are two female paralectotypes that bear the same locality label as the lectotype.

Other specimens examined.—Nearctic: UNITED STATES. FLORIDA. *Levy*: Cedar Key, 21 Feb 1990, W. H. Pierce (1♂; USNM). *Orange*: Orlando, 7 Feb 1918, J. M. Aldrich (1♂; ANSP).

LOUISIANA. *Orleans*: New Orleans, 28 Mar 1905 (3♂, 3♀; ANSP).

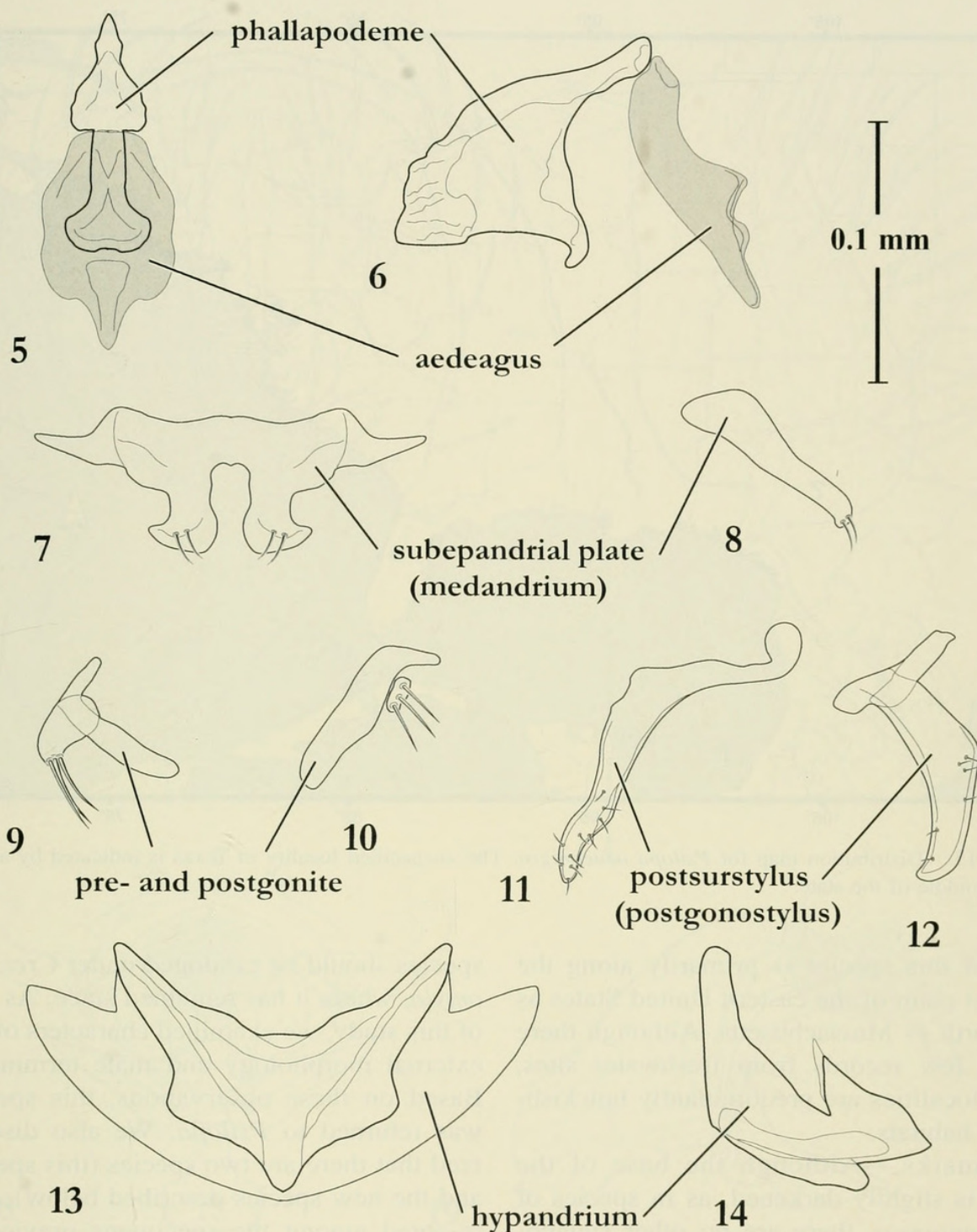
MARYLAND. *Queen Anne's*: Kent Narrows (38°58'N, 76°14'W), Jul 1954, M. R. Wheeler (1♀; USNM). *Worcester*: Seaside, 21 Jun 1931, A. L. Melander (1♀; ANSP).

MASSACHUSETTS. *Barnstable*: Falmouth (41°33'N, 70°37'W), 9 Aug 1952, A. H. Sturtevant (1♀; USNM); Sandwich (41°45'N, 70°29'W), 22 Jun 1924, A. H. Sturtevant (1♀; USNM); Woods Hole (41°31'N, 70°41'W), 5–21 Jul 1922, A. H. Sturtevant (5♀; USNM). *Bristol*: New Bedford (41°38'N, 70°56'W), J. M. Aldrich (1♂, 1♀; USNM).

NEW JERSEY. *Cape May*: Avalon, 8 Aug (1♀; ANSP); Cape May, 1 Jun (1♂; ANSP).

NEW YORK. *New York*: New York, 28 Oct 1922, A. H. Sturtevant (2♀; USNM).





Figs. 5–14. Structures of the male terminalia of *Psilopa aeneonigra* (Massachusetts. Bristol: New Bedford). 5, Aedeagus and phallapodeme, ventral view. 6, Same, lateral view. 7, Subepandrial plate, ventral view. 8, Same, lateral view. 9, Pregonite and postgonite, ventral view. 10, Same, lateral view. 11, Postsurstylus, ventral view. 12, Same, lateral view. 13, Hypandrium, ventral view. 14, Same, lateral view.

Montauk, Long Island, 17 Aug 1946, L. D. Beamer (1♂; USNM).

NORTH CAROLINA. *Hyde*: Lake Landing (35°28'N, 76°04'W), 13 Nov 1939, J. E. Graf (1♀; USNM).

VIRGINIA. *King George*: Mathias Point

(38°24'N, 77°03'W), 4 Aug 1913, R. C. Shannon (1♀; USNM).

Distribution (Fig. 15).—*Nearctic*: United States (Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Virginia). The distribu-



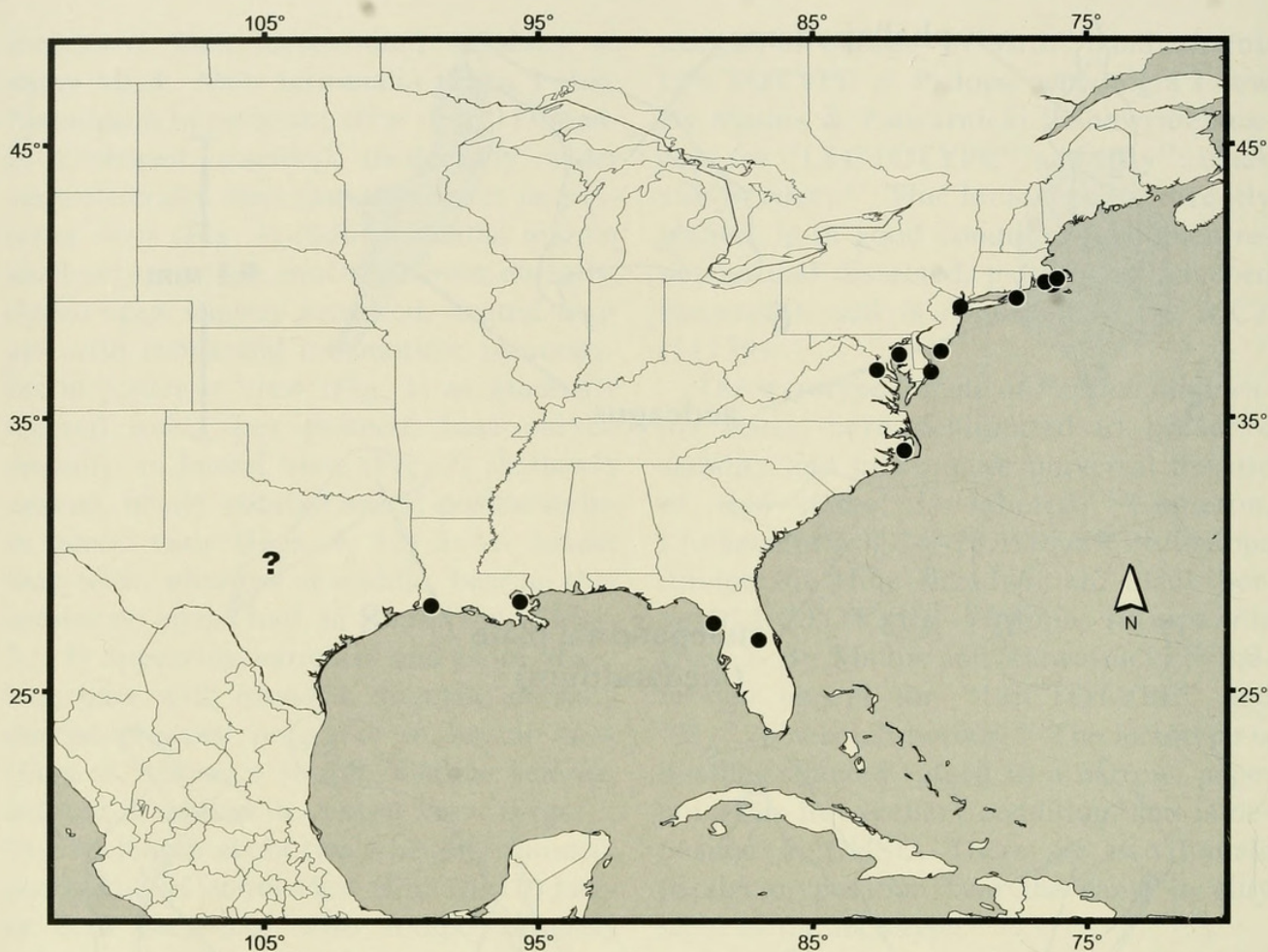


Fig. 15. Distribution map for *Psilopa aeneonigra*. The unspecified locality in Texas is indicated by a “?” in the middle of the state.

tion of this species is primarily along the coastal plain of the eastern United States as far north as Massachusetts. Although there are a few records from freshwater sites, most localities are predominantly brackish-water habitats.

**Remarks.**—Although the base of the wing is slightly darkened, as in species of *Cressonomyia*, there are no other synapomorphic features of this species that indicate its relationships with that genus.

Since Cresson (1942), the generic placement of this species has been confused. Cresson (1942: 125, 127) treated it twice, first under *Psilopa* (key and listing) and then again in his key to the species of *Plagiopsis* (= *Cressonomyia* Arnaud). In the latter key, however, Cresson continued to cite the species as “*Psilopa aeneo-nigra* Loew.” Apparently Wirth (1965) noted Cresson’s double usage and decided that the

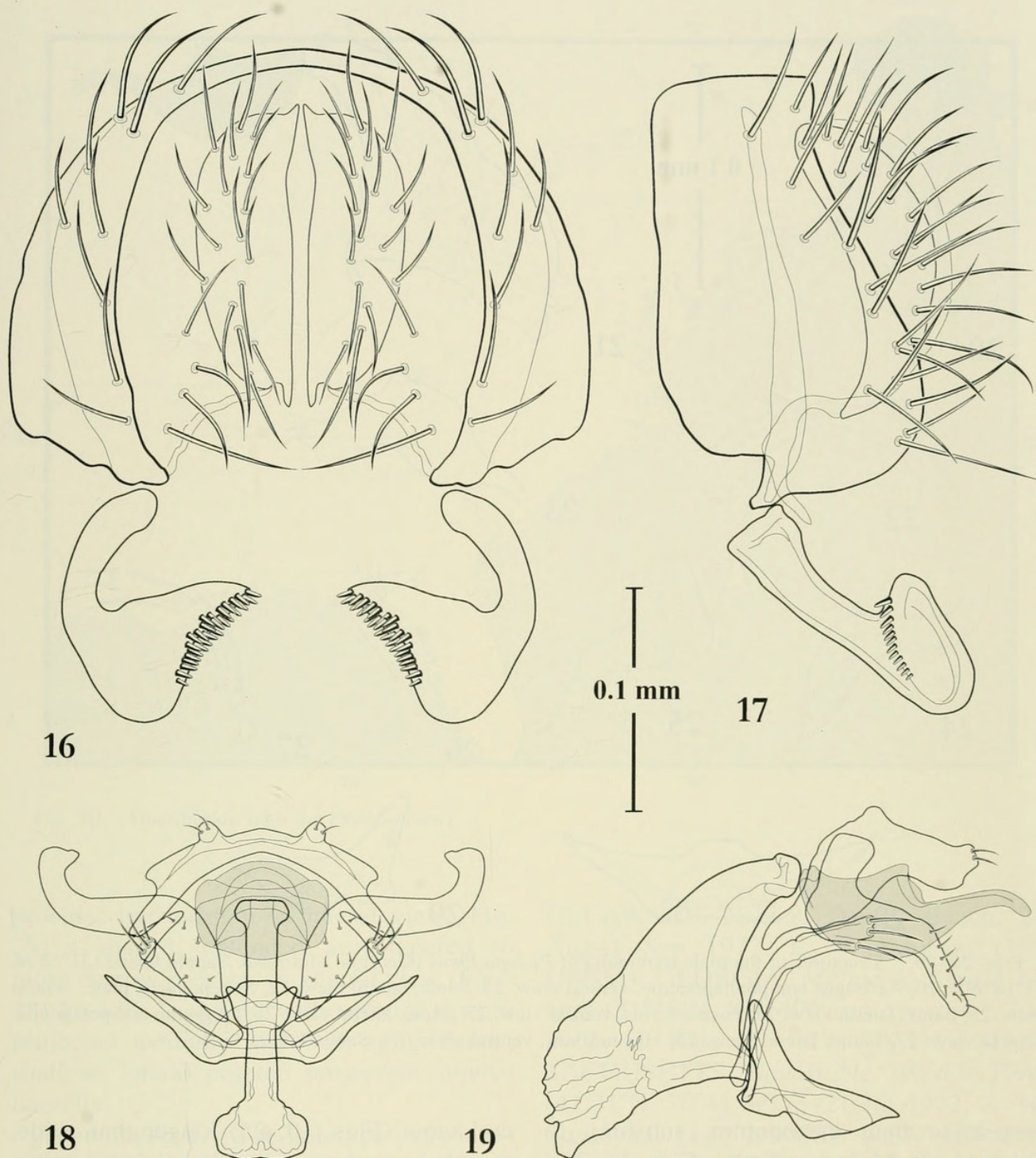
species should be cataloged under *Cressonomyia*, where it has remained since. As part of this study, we examined characters of the external morphology and male terminalia. Based on these observations, this species was returned to *Psilopa*. We also discovered that there are two species (this species and the new species described below), represented among the specimens previously identified as this species.

***Psilopa loewi* Mathis and Zatwarnicki,  
new species  
(Figs. 16–30)**

**Description.**—Moderately small shore flies, body length 2.25–2.85 mm; largely black.

**Head:** Frons sparsely microtomentose, subopaque to subshiny. Antenna yellow except for blackish apicodorsal portion of 1st flagellomere; arista bearing 6 dorsal rays,





Figs. 16–19. Structures of the male terminalia of *Psilopa loewi* (Georgia, McIntosh: Sapelo Island (31°28'N, 81°14'W)). 16, Epandrium, cerci, and presurstylus, posterior view. 17, Same, lateral view. 18, Internal genitalic structures (aedeagus (shaded), phallapodeme, subepandrial plate, postsurstylus, pregonite, postgonite, and hypandrium), ventral view. 19, Same, lateral view.

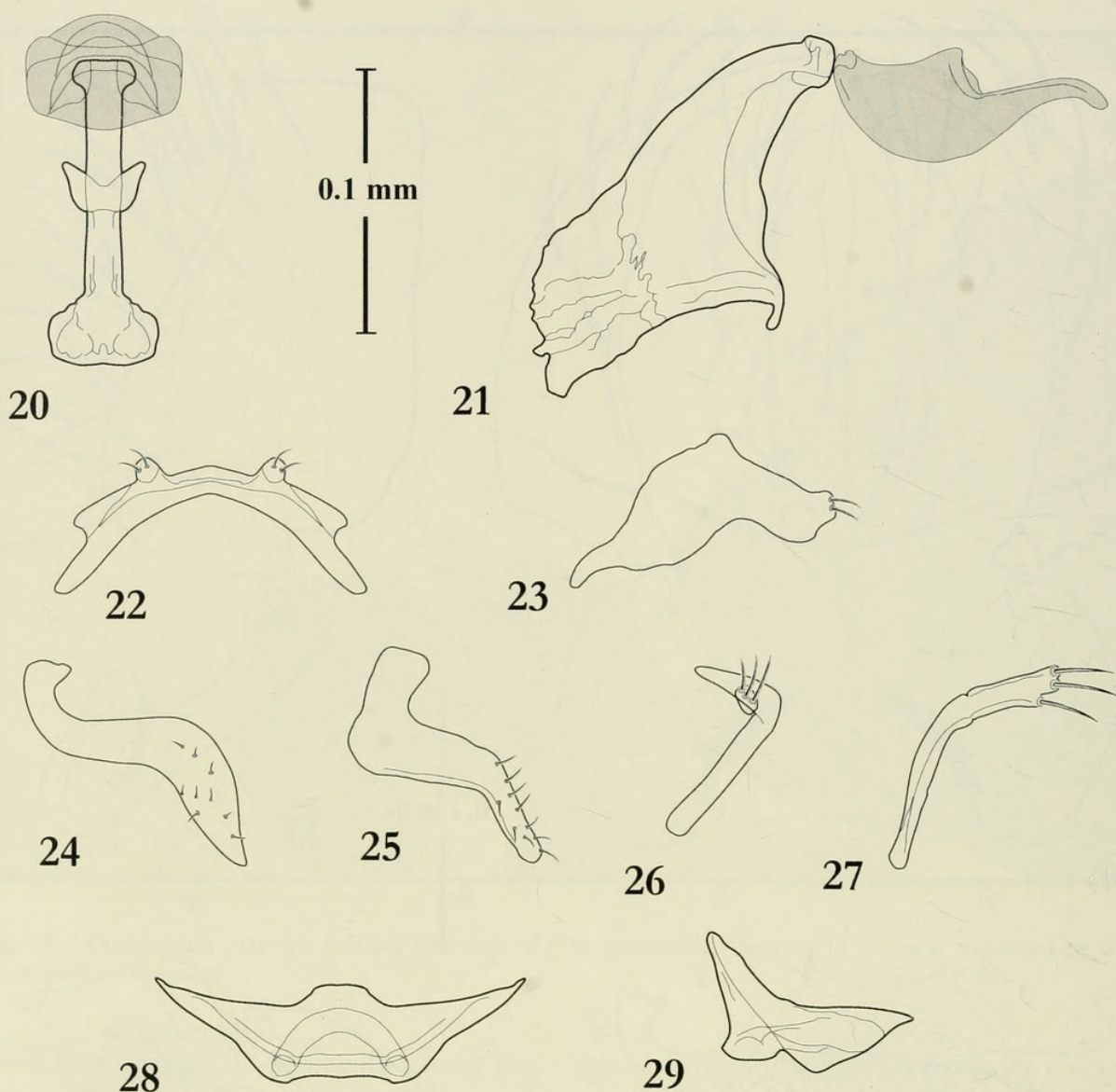
rarely 5 (probably representing a ray that was broken off). Face moderately densely microtomentose, mostly flat, bearing 1 large, ventral, cruciate seta.

**Thorax:** Mesonotum sparsely microtomentose, subshiny; scutellum trapezoidal posterior margin truncate. Wing hyaline,

only stem base blackish; costal vein ratio 0.87–0.90; M vein ratio 0.68–0.70. Knob of halter white to pale yellow, stem brownish. Legs black except for apex of tibiae and tarsi; apical tarsomere brownish black to black.

**Abdomen:** Tergites more sparsely micro-





Figs. 20–29. Structures of the male terminalia of *Psilopa loewi* (Georgia. McIntosh: Sapelo Island (31°28'N, 81°14'W)). 20, Aedeagus and phallapodeme, ventral view. 21, Same, lateral view. 22, Subepandrial plate, ventral view. 23, Same, lateral view. 24, Postsurstylus, ventral view. 25, Same, lateral view. 26, Pregonite and postgonite, ventral view. 27, Same, lateral view. 28, Hypandrium, ventral view. 29, Same, lateral view.

tomentose than mesonotum, subshiny to shiny black. Male terminalia (Figs. 16–29): Epandrium in posterior view (Fig. 16) broadly U-shaped, rounded, in lateral view (Fig. 17) considerably wider ventrolaterally than dorsally; cerci in posterior view (Fig. 16) almost rodlike, less curved ventrally, lateral margins rounded, medial margin very shallow; presurstylus in posterior view (Fig. 16) deeply incised mediodorsally, forming a narrow, parallel sided base that expands abruptly on apical half to wide apex that bears row of short, stout, peglike setulae along  $\frac{2}{3}$  length; postsurstylus in lat-

eral view (Figs. 19, 25) longer than wide, rounded angulate, apical  $\frac{1}{3}$  bearing setulae, very gradually tapered, almost parallel sided; pregonite in lateral view (Figs. 19, 27) L-shaped, arm bearing 3 apical setae wider than basal, slender arm; aedeagus in lateral view (Figs. 19, 21) wide basally, curved and narrowed to slender, parallel sided apex; phallapodeme in lateral view (Figs. 19, 21) with keel well developed, broadly and asymmetrically extended; subepandrial plate in ventral view (Figs. 22) deeply incised medially and with smaller incision basolaterally, extended laterally as a narrowed



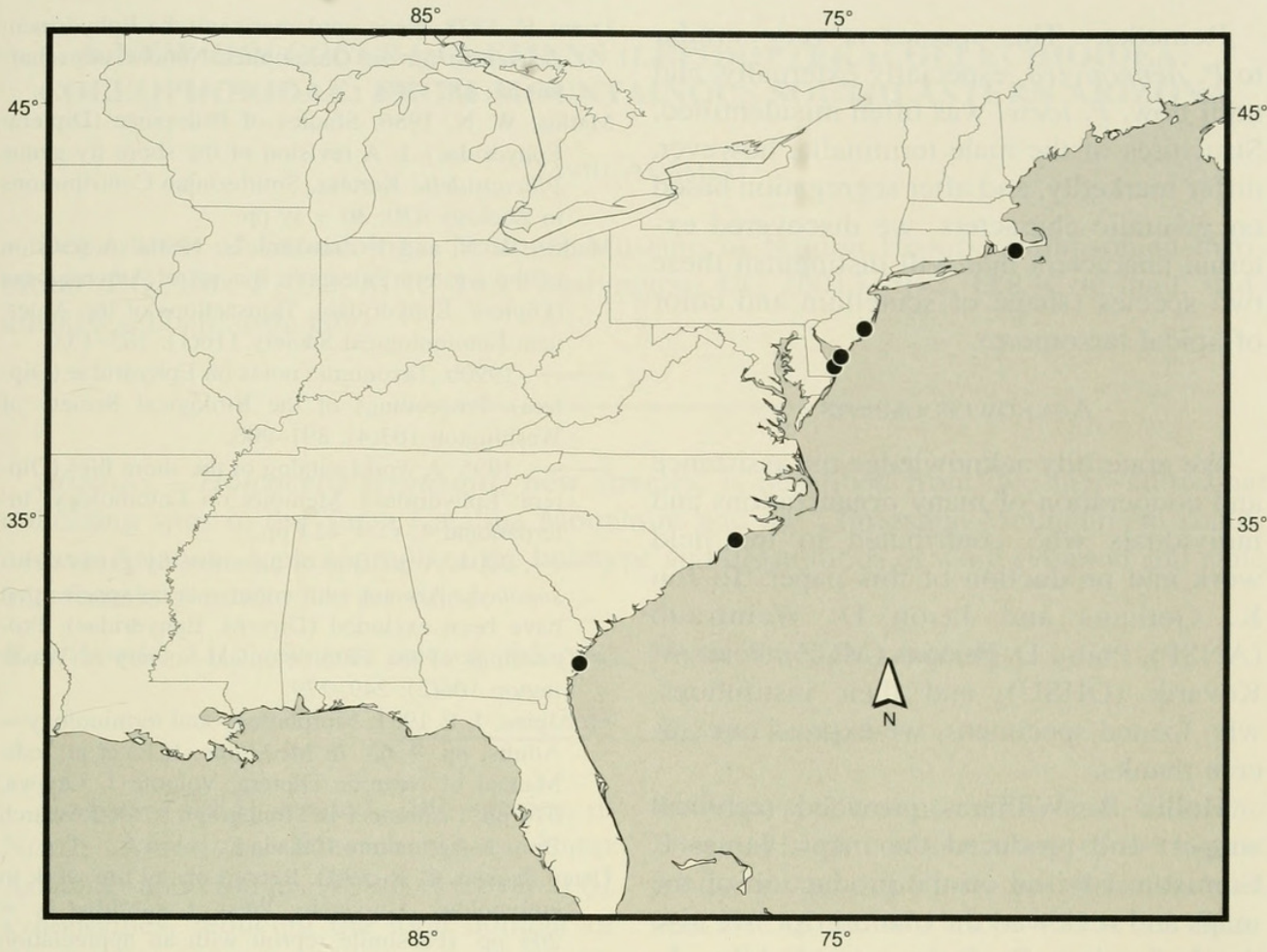


Fig. 30. Distribution map for *Psilopa loewi*.

process; hypandrium in lateral view (Fig. 29) L-shaped, extended arm tapered to more narrow process, in ventral view (Figs. 28) broadly U-shaped with anterior margin projected medially and with symmetrical, shallow, lateral pointed projection antero-laterally.

Type material.—The holotype male is labeled “USA. NJ. Ocean: Tuckerton (10 km N; 39°41.3’N, 74°21.6’W), 26 Sep 2003[,] D. & W. N. Mathis/USNM ENT 00201689 [plastic bar code label]/HOLOTYPE ♂ *Psilopa loewi* W.N. Mathis & T. Zatwarnicki USNM [red; species name, gender symbol, and “& T. Zatwarnicki” handwritten].” The holotype is double mounted (mounted in a block of plastic), is in excellent condition, and is deposited in the USNM. Thirty-four paratypes (16♂, 18♀; USNM) bear the same label data as the holotype. Other paratypes are as follows: United States.

DELAWARE. *Sussex*: Dewey Beach, 27 Aug–1 Sep 1972, L. V. Knutson (1♀; USNM). GEORGIA. *McIntosh*: Sapelo Island (31°28’N, 81°14’W; on *Spartina*), Jun 1963, H. Kale (2♂, 2♀; USNM). MASSACHUSETTS. *Barnstable*: Woods Hole (41°31’N, 70°41’W), 5–21 Jul 1922, A. H. Sturtevant (1♂; USNM). NEW JERSEY. *Cape May*: Cape May, 27 Jun–1 Jul, C. W. Johnson (1♂; MCZ). *Ocean*: Tuckerton, 1 Jul 1995, M. J. Raupp (1♂, 1♀; USNM). NORTH CAROLINA. *Onslow*: Ashe Island (on *Spartina alterniflora*), 19 Aug 1975, J. C. Dukes (2♂; USNM).

Distribution (Fig. 30).—*Nearctic*: USA (Delaware, Georgia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey).

Etymology.—The species epithet, *loewi*, is a genitive patronym to recognize the pioneering research and publications of Hermann Loew on North American Ephydriidae.



Remarks.—This species is very similar to *P. aeneonigra*, especially externally, and until now, *P. loewi* was often misidentified. Structures of the male terminalia, however, differ markedly, and after segregation based on genitalic characters, we discovered external characters that will distinguish these two species (shape of scutellum and color of apical tarsomere).

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and cooperation of many organizations and individuals who contributed to the field work and production of this paper. To Jon K. Gelhaus and Jason D. Weintraub (ANSP), Philip D. Perkins (MCZ), Peter W. Kovarik (OHSU), and their institutions, who loaned specimens, we express our sincere thanks.

Hollis B. Williams provided technical support and produced the maps. James F. Edmiston advised on the production of the maps and reviewed the manuscript. We also thank Stephen D. Gaimari and Allen L. Norrbom for reviewing a draft of this paper.

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