SCIENTIFIC NOTE

NO KELISIA FIEBER (HEMIPTERA: FULGOROIDEA: DELPHACIDAE) IN SOUTH AMERICA: NEW TAXONOMIC PLACEMENT OF PHRICTOPYGA VITTATA (MUIR) COMB. NOV. FROM BRAZIL

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Kelisia vittata Muir, 1926 is the only New World species nomenclaturally in the Kelisiinae from south of the contiguous USA. The delphacid genus Kelisia Fieber, 1866 (Kelisiinae: Kelisiini) consists of 46 species of Laurasian distribution, plus 2 species of uncertain status, one (Kelisia nigripennis Muir 1929) from South Africa and one (Kelisia vittata Muir 1926) from Brazil. In North America, Kelisia includes 12 species found from southern Canada to Texas, all of which appear to be specialized sedge feeders (Beamer 1945, 1951; Bartlett & Wheeler 2007, Bartlett et al., 2014). Muir’s (1926) illustrations of Kelisia vittata (viz. Figures 50-51) are sufficient to show that it belongs to the Delphacini (Delphacinae), not the Kelisiinae, but they are not adequate to place the genus (hence its omission by Caldwell and Martorell 1951). Muir’s type material consisted of 4 males, 3 females from Campinas, Brazil, and 1 male from ‘Villa Americana’ (both São Paulo state, Brazil). Here the species is briefly diagnosed based on the ‘Villa Americana’ paratype (Figure 1, from the California Academy of Sciences collection, CASC) to review its higher classification and place it to genus.

The Kelisiinae consists of only 2 genera (the western Palearctic Anakelisia Wagner, 1963 and the Laurasian Kelisia). Kelisiinae is characterized by the presence of a process on the connection between segment X (the “anal tube”) and the phallus (i.e., the “subanal process”, unique to the subfamily, see e.g., Bartlett et al., 2014 Fig. 23E), a darkly sclerotized phallus within a weakly sclerotized phallotheca (often with a vestigial flagellum), the absence of an elongate suspensorium, and apparently the absence of processes on segment X. In contrast, the Delphacini lack the subanal process, have a well-developed and elongate suspensorium, have the phallotheca and aedeagus completely fused and indistinguishable (to form a theca), and may have or lack processes on segment X (Asche 1985, 1990).

Muir (1926) originally described 9 species that he placed in Kelisia from the Neotropics, but subsequently all except K. vittata were transferred into the new genera PhRICTOPYGA Caldwell and Pygospina Caldwell by Caldwell and Martorell (1951; Delphacinae: Delphacini). PhRICTOPYGA and Pygospina are similar to each other in being pale slender forms that are slightly dorsoventrally flat-

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