

GENUS *NEOMOCHTHERUS* OSTEN-SACKEN, 1878 (DIPTERA, ASIEIDAE) IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

MEDEEA WEINBERG, MARCOS BAEZ

On présente la situation du genre *Neomochtherus* dans les Iles Canaries et on décrit deux nouvelles espèces: *Neomochtherus gomerae* n.sp. et *Neomochtherus lanzarotae* n. sp.

In 1968, Tsacas published the review of genus *Neomochtherus* from the Palaearctic region.

In his paper he mentioned that two species were described from the Canary Islands, where they were endemic.

The first species was described by Macquart in 1839, *Neomochtherus fuscifemoratus* and the second by Becker in 1908, *Neomochtherus schistaceus*.

From their description till the monograph of Tsacas (op. cit.) it is only *Neomochtherus schistaceus* Becker that was mentioned again by Frey (1936, 1958) from several islands.

As the status of *N. fuscifemoratus* Macquart was uncertain, Tsacas (op. cit.) rehabilitated this species on the basis of the genitalia, the only character surely distinguishing these two species. It is worth noting that Tsacas (op. cit.) grouped the species of this genus according to their phylogenetic affinities. Group 8 is named *schistaceus* and includes species of average size, dark coloured, with black antennae, a relatively big facial gibbosity, femora with a brown stripe and elongate hypopygium. For this group, the Canary Islands are indicated as distribution area and are mentioned the two species *N. fuscifemoratus* Macq. and *N. schistaceus* Beck.

One of the authors of this paper (M. Baez) collected Asilidae of the Canary Islands among which 12 specimens belonging to genus *Neomochtherus*. These specimens originate from 6 islands, i.e. Lanzarote, G. Canaria, Tenerife, Gomera, La Palma and Hierro.

Using the identification key, all these specimens seemed to belong to the species *N. schistaceus*. Analysing the given diagnosis, in some specimens we found deviations which could be taken as individual variabilities. Consequently, we decided to undertake a study of the genitalia in all the 12 specimens (11 ♂♂, 1 ♀).

The dissections revealed us that the males belong to 4 species, two of which are new to science.

For the two species previously mentioned, we state, on the basis of the data available so far that *N. fuscifemoratus* is endemic in the Gran Canaria Island and *N. schistaceus* has been recorded from several islands, but is surely present in the Islands Tenerife and La Palma where from T s a c a s (op. cit.) himself studied some material on the basis of the genitalia, too. We also mention it now from the Island Hierro.

MATERIAL

Neomochtherus fuscifemoratus (Macq.) 1 ♂, Gran Canaria Tejada 5.VI.1963, leg. J. M. Fernandez. The genitalia are identical to those figured by T s a c a s (op. cit. fig. 152—156).

Neomochtherus schistaceus Beck. (Figs 1, 2) From La Palma: 1 ♂, Los Tilos 25.VII.1973 and 1 ♀, 31.VIII.1977, leg. G. Ortusgh; 1 ♂ Beo del Carmen 14.VII.1973; 1 ♂, La Caldera 27.VII.1974, from Tenerife: 1 ♂, Las Canadas 6.VIII.1974 and from Hierro: 1 ♂, Frontera 26.V.1976 and 1 ♂, 30.V.1976; 1 ♂, Sabinar 29.V.1976.

We figure the genitalia (Fig. 1) which, in all the 7 ♂♂ examined are very constant. We also figure: the ovipositor (Fig. 2) with gonapodema and spermathecae.

As concerns the variability of the occipital hairs mentioned by T s a c a s (op. cit.), it is also confirmed in the specimens studied by us.

Neomochtherus gomerae n. sp.

(Fig. 3)

Material: 1 ♂ Gomera, Argumame 16.VIII.1977.

Species similar to *N. fuscifemoratus* described from Gran Canaria by the shape of its genitalia components.

Body black, legs brick-red yellow, with black coxae and a black anterior stripe on femora. Pilosity of the body dominantly white.

Head: the gibbosity, on the lower third of the face, is silver powdered and bears white bristles on all the area; only on the upper angle there are several black hairs, some of them strong, some others thin.

Antennae black, with basis of article 2 brick-red yellow, arista longer than antennal article 3.

The hairs on frons, on the ocellar triangle and the occipital one on the upper side of the head are black.

Thorax: with a silver powder in the humeral area, on the alar calluses, on pleurae and on scutellum. The thoracal pilosity is black, except scutellum which is armed with white fine hairs and 4 marginal hairs of the same colour. Pleurae with long fine white hairs.

Wings: with a yellowish tint, with brick — red coloured veins browner on their basis. Halteres yellow all along.

Legs: yellow, with coxae black with silver powder and white marginal hairs. Femora with a black stripe on the anterior side that covers all the length. The fine hairs and the bristles are completely white on anterior femora and on the other 2 pairs, apically, they bear one black spine; as for the rest,

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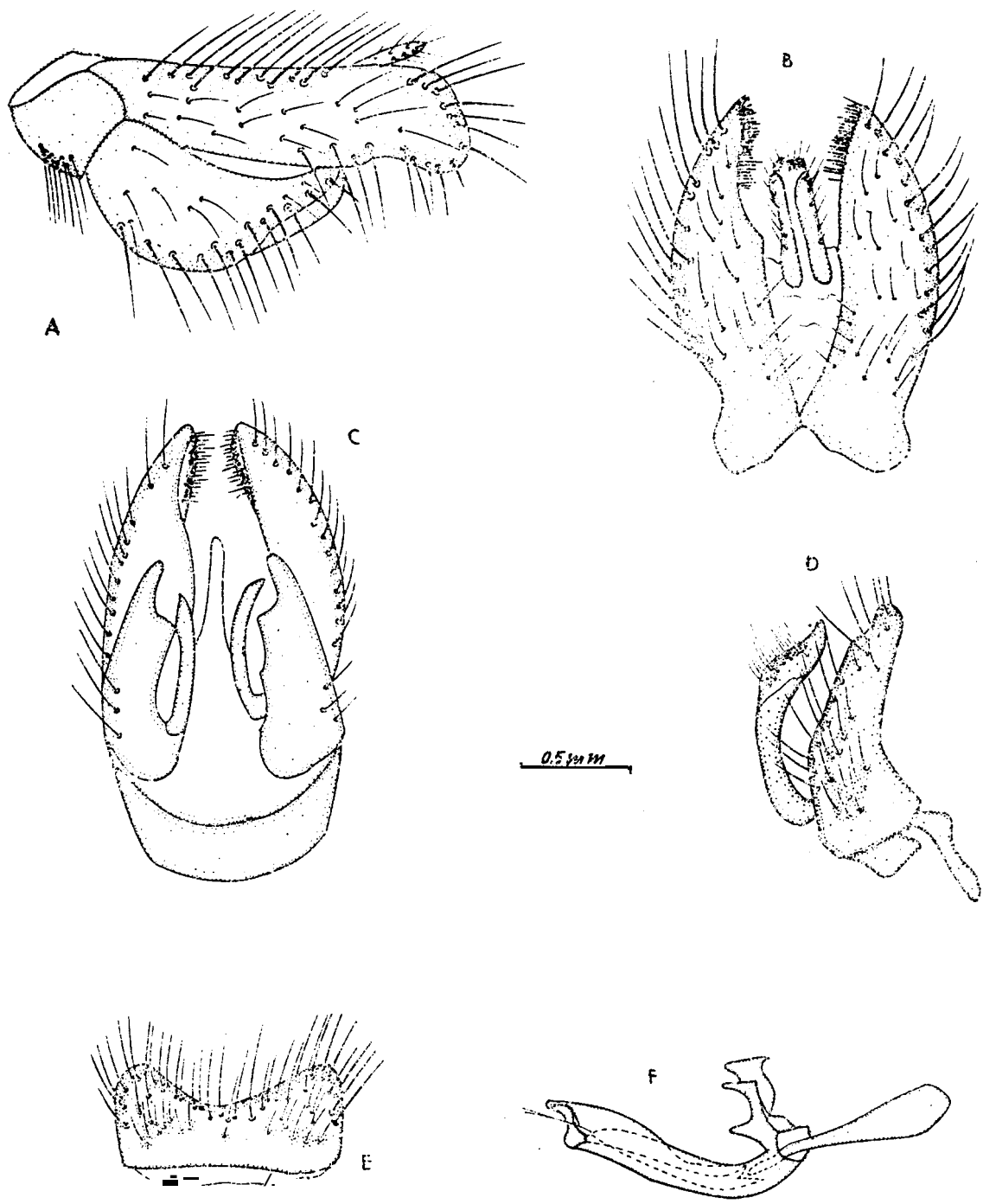


Fig. 1 — *Neomochtherus schistaceus* Beck. Hypopygium.

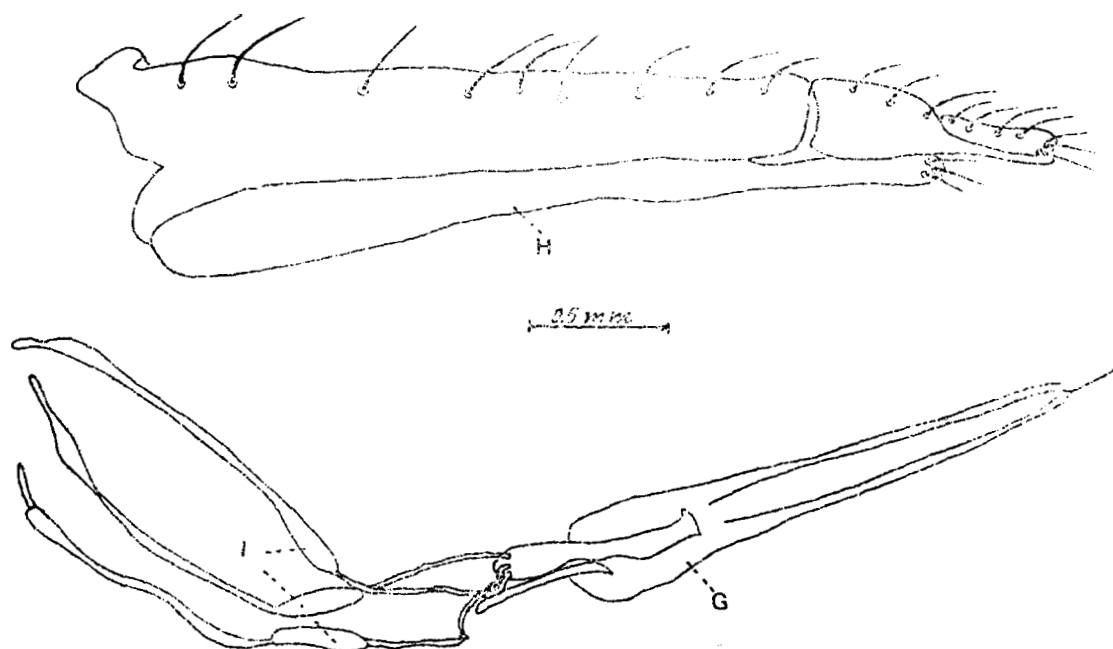


Fig. 3—*Neomochtherus schistaeus* Beck. Ovipositor.

pilosity is like on the anterior femora. Tibiae yellow, with a darker tint all along, anteriorly, given by fine black hairs; as for the rest, pilosity is white. Among the white spines, there are 1–2 black spines which apically bear a rosette of the same colour. Tarsi yellow covered by black spines and hairs.

Abdomen: black, laterally with silver powder and white hairs. Medianly, on tergites, the hairs are black. Discal hairs and the long fine hairs of the first tergite and on sternites are white.

Hypopygium: long (Fig. 3), brick-red, with white and black hairs.

Length: 12 mm.

Holotype: ♂ Gomera, Argumame 16.VIII.1377, leg M. Baez, deposited in M. Baez collection. The genitalia in a vial, on the insect's pin.

Geographic distribution: Canary Islands.

Derivatio nominis: we named this species after the island where it was collected.

Neomochtherus lanzarotae n. sp.

(Fig. 4)

Material: 1 ♂ Lanzarote, Guarimeta 23.IV.1977 and 1 ♂, from the same place on 11.III.1972, leg. Bacallado.

By the shape of the genitalia the species is close to *Neomochtherus sanguensis* Oldroyd, 1964 described from Nepal.

Body black, legs brick-red yellow with black coxae and an anterior brown stripe on femora. Pilosity of the body dominantly white.

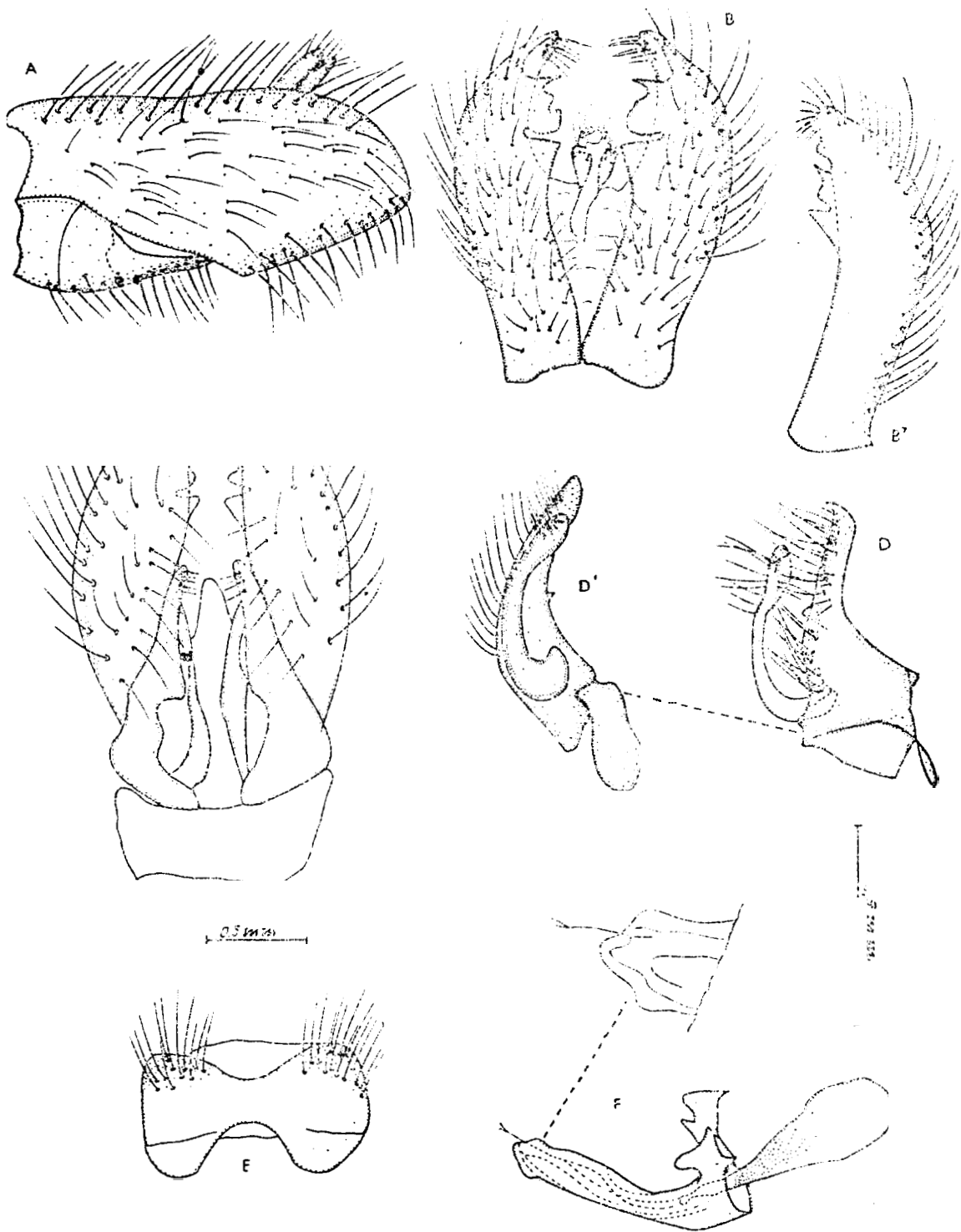


Fig. 3 — *Neomoghterus gomerae* n.sp. Hypopygium.

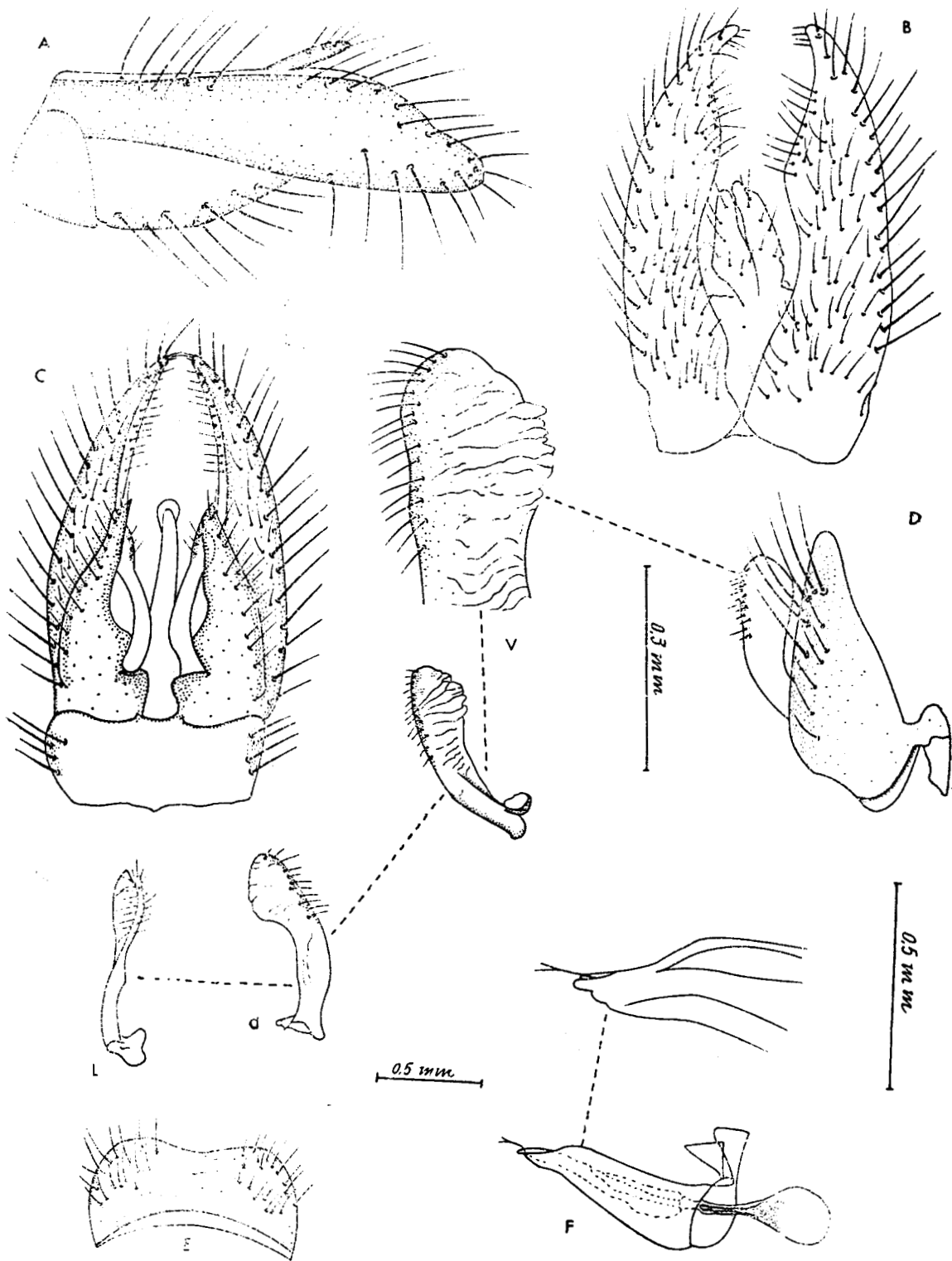


Fig. 4 — *Neomochtherus lanzarotae* n.sp. Hypopygium, with the dististyle in: d = dorsal view, l = lateral view, v = ventral view.

Head : the gibbosity reaches the middle of the face ; it is silver powdered and bears white bristles all along; only medianly and above the mouth there are several black hairs.

Antennae black, with article 2 and basis of the 3-rd brown-brick-red; arista as long as article 3.

The hairs on frons, on the ocellar triangle and the occipital hairs are prevailingly white.

Thorax : silver powdered from the humeral zone up to scutellum which is uniformly silver powdered, too. Pilosity black except humeruses, alar calluses and scutellum. Marginally scutellum bears 2 black hairs.

Pleurae with long fine white hairs.

Wings : with a yellowish tint, with brick-red veins. Halteres yellow all along.

Legs : yellow, with coxae black, silver powdered and white pilosity. All articles are darker on anastomoses. Anterior femora posteriorly bear a row of white bristles. As for the rest, the pilosity on legs is white mixed up with black.

Abdomen : black, with silver — gold powder rich on the median area of tergites and silver powder on their posterior margin. Pilosity medianly black. Discal hairs and the pilosity laterally white.

Hypopygium, long (Fig. 4), is brick-red with white pilosity and with some black hairs especially towards apex.

Length : 13—16 mm.

Holotype : ♂, Lanzarote Guasimeta 23.IV.1977, leg. M. Baez, deposited in M. Baez collection. The genitalia in a vial, on the insect's pin.

Paratype : 1 ♂ Lanzarote Guasimeta 11.III.1972, leg. Bacallado, deposited in the « Grigore Antipa » Museum of Natural History of Bucharest, under no. 181657.

Geographical distribution : Canary Islands.

Derivatio nominis : we named this species after the island where it was collected.

ABBREVIATIONS

A = hypopygium, lateral view; B and B' = epandrium, dorsal view; C = hypopygium, ventral view; D = gonopod, dorsal view; D' = gonopod, ventral view; E = hypandrium, dorsal view; F = aedeagus, lateral view; G = gonapodema, dorsal view; H = hypogina, lateral view; I = spermatheca, dorsal and ventral view.

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GENUL *NEOMOCHTHERUS* OSTEN – SACKEN, 1873 (DIPTERA,
ASILIDAE) ÎN INSULELE CANARE

REZUMAT

T s a c a s (1968) în studiul monografic al acestui gen, arată că speciile din Insulele Canare pot fi determinate în mod sigur doar pe baza componentelor genitale. El menționează existența a două specii endemice: *Neomochtherus fuscifemoratus* Macquart și *N. schistaceus* Becker.

Autorii prezintă situația genului *Neomochtherus* O.S. în Insulele Canare cu descrierea a 2 specii noi pentru știință: *Neomochtherus gomerac* n. sp. și *N. lanzarotae* n. sp.

Pentru cele două specii cunoscute se fac noi semnalări. Se precizează pe baza datelor existente și a materialului cercetat că *N. fuscifemoratus* este endemic în Insula Gran Canaria. Legat de repartiția speciei *N. schistaceus*, semnalată din mai multe insule de F r e y (1936, 1958), autorii confirmă pe baza studiului armăturii genitale, prezența acestei specii în insulele Tenerife și La Palma, de unde a fost semnalată și de T s a c a s și o semnalează acum și în insula Hierro.

La *N. schistaceus* s-a efectuat un studiu comparativ al componentelor genitale la exemplare provenind din diferite insule, constatându-se constanța formei lor. În ce privește variabilitatea culorii perilor semnalată de T s a c a s ea se confirmă și la exemplarele analizate.

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Medeea Weinberg
 Muzeul de Istorie Naturală «Grigore Antipa»
 Șos. Kiseleff 1
 71243 București, România.
 Marco Baez
 Departamento de Zoología Universidad de la
 Laguna Tenerife-Islands Canarias Espana