



Australian  
National  
University

## PhD exit seminar. Flies with bite: the taxonomy, evolution and biogeography of austral horse flies (Diptera: Tabanidae)

Wednesday 27 March 2013, 1pm

Bryan Lessard Cooper Lab, EEG, and CSIRO

Gould Seminar Room (Room 235), Gould Building (Bldg. 116), Linnaeus Way, ANU



The Tabanidae, also known as horse flies, are a large cosmopolitan family of medically and ecologically important Diptera. Adults of both sexes are important pollinators, and the females are known to mechanically transmit multiple disease agents while blood-feeding, affecting humans and animals.

The tribe Scionini of the subfamily Pangoniinae consists of stoutly built and hairy-eyed flies predominantly austral in distribution. Despite the importance of the tribe, the taxonomy of the Scionini has not been revised in over 50 years. Consequently, new material has accumulated in Australian and New

Zealand museums, corresponding to 18 new species of the Scionini, including the novel genera *Anzomyia* Lessard, gen.n. and *Aotearomyia* Lessard, **gen.n.**

Molecular results were combined with morphological evidence to revise the taxonomy of the entire Scionini, including the redescription of all genera and the development of a novel diagnostic key to all seventeen recognised genera. Results indicated that the Scionini are a typical Gondwanan group that most likely originated in Australia. Furthermore, the diversification and current biogeography of the tribe appears to have been influenced by the ancient fragmentation of Gondwana, involving a complex process of both vicariance and long distance dispersal.

Presented by

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