

New data on *Leptoconops minutus* Gutsevich
(Diptera: Leptoconopidae)
from southeastern Kazakhstan

Новые данные о *Leptoconops minutus* Gutsevich
(Diptera: Leptoconopidae)
из юго-восточного Казахстана

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: *Leptoconops minutus*, морфология, самка, роение.

ABSTRACT. The female of *Leptoconops minutus*, a poorly known species, is illustrated for the first time from material from SE Kazakhstan. Females of *L. minutus* from Kazakhstan differ from the type specimens in the shape of the last antennal segment. Swarming behaviour of *L. minutus* is described.

РЕЗЮМЕ. На материале из юго-восточного Казахстана впервые проиллюстрирована морфология самки малоизученного вида *Leptoconops minutus*. Самки *L. minutus* из Казахстана отличаются от типовых экземпляров формой последнего членика антенны. Впервые опубликованы наблюдения за роением этого вида.

Leptoconops (Leptoconops) minutus Gutsevich, 1973 was described from two females and one male collected on a light trap by L.A. Molotova in 1964 in eastern Turkmenistan (Bairam-Ali resort) [Gutsevich, 1973]. Outside of the type locality, this species is so far known only from the Dzhungar Alatau region in south-eastern Kazakhstan [Auezova, 1985, 1987a, 1987b; Auezova et al., 1985].

Material

Kazakhstan, Taldykogran Province, edge of Dzhapalakkum Sands at foothills of Aktau Mountains (at right bank of Ili River; ca. 44°N 79°E, about 200 km NE of Alma-Ata): 3 ♀♀ — 23.VI.1979; 25 ♂♂ — 26.VI.1979. All specimens collected by G. Auezova, deposited in Zoological Institute (St. Petersburg) and in the Institute of Zoology (Almaty).

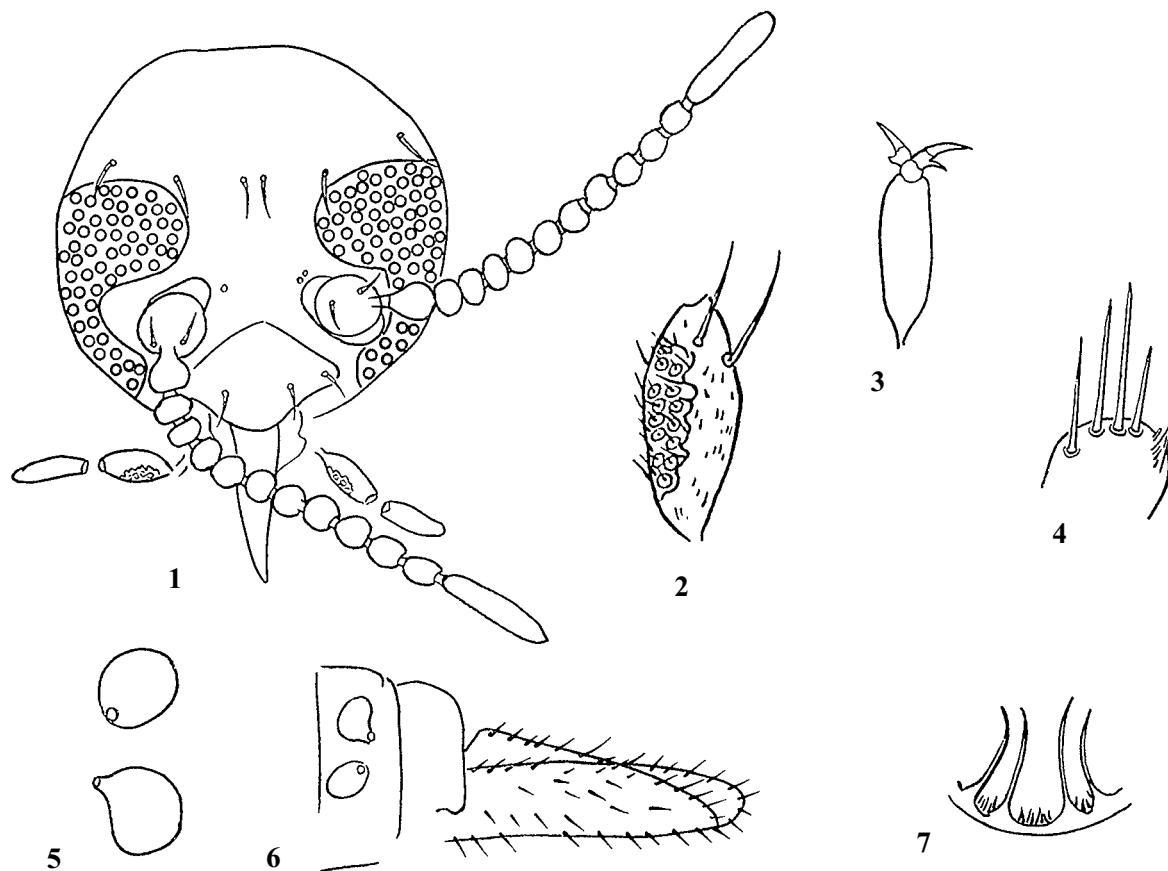
Results

One of the three females was collected while feeding upon lizards [Auezova et al., 1985]. All males were collected from a swarm on a blown (unstabilized) sand dune near stands of *Populus pruinosa* Schrenck and *Calligonum triste* Litw. The swarming of males was observed at 5–8 cm above hot sand at 10:00 AM, at an air temperature of 42°C with moderate wind.

The material was slide-mounted and compared with the types of *L. minutus* kept at the Zoological Institute (St. Petersburg). The identification was confirmed by V.M. Glukhova. The specimens in our material exhibit the characters of *L. minutus*, but the females differ from the types in having shorter, not elongate antennal segments XI–XIII. The length/width ratio of segment XIII was 1.04; according to the description by Gutsevich [1973], this ratio in the types ranged from 1.3–1.4.

Gutsevich [1973] illustrated only the male of *L. minutus*. Here the illustrations of female are given, which are based on the material from Kazakhstan (Figs 1–7).

Another female specimen of *Leptoconops* Skuse, 1889, collected from lizards in the same area (Almaty Province, Ul'kunkum sands near Charyn River and Charyn village, Ili Valley at left bank of the Ili River, ca. 43°50'N 79°15'E, 11.VII.1979; deposited at Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg), belongs to another, probably undescribed species. It differs markedly from *L. minutus* by the structure of sensory pit on 3-rd palpomere and shape of the spermathecae.



Figs 1–7. *Leptoconops minutus*, female: 1 — head with antennae and palpi; 2 — third palpomere; 3 — last tarsomere; 4 — comb of hind tibia; 5 — spermathecae; 6 — apex of abdomen, laterally; 7 — genital plate.

Рис. 1–7. *Leptoconops minutus*, самка: 1 — голова с антеннами и щупиками; 2 — третий сегмент щупика; 3 — последний сегмент лапки; 4 — щётка задней голени; 5 — сперматеки; 6 — вершина брюшка, латерально; 7 — генитальная пластинка.

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