

Introduction

Since Meyrick (1894), the Blastobasinae have been considered a monophyletic taxon. Recent workers (Adamski and Brown 1989, Hodges 1998) have corroborated this notion and provided hypotheses of the phylogenetic position of Blastobasinae within Gelechioidea. In this study, the Blastobasidae (sensu Adamski and Brown 1989) are treated as a subfamily within the Coleophoridae, following Hodges' (1998) recent analysis of Gelechioidea.

The first species of Neotropical Blastobasinae was described by Zeller in 1877. During the next 60 years, Walsingham (1892, 1894, 1897, 1907a, 1907b, 1908, 1909, 1912) and Meyrick (1894, 1916-23, 1926, 1923-30a, 1930-36, 1936, 1939) provided descriptions of many genera and species from Central and South America. Following nearly 50 years of virtually no research on Neotropical Blastobasinae, recent contributions by Adamski and Brown (1989), Adamski and Landry (1997), Adamski (1998a, 1998b, 1999a, 1999b, 1999c, 1999d), and Adamski and Karsholt (1999) have made significant advances in our knowledge of the group. Although a vast number of specimens have accumulated in major museums throughout the world as a result of various collecting activities and expeditions, no effort has been made to study type specimens, determine species richness, or examine phylogenetic relationships within Blastobasinae. The purpose of this study was to consolidate information for all species of Neotropical Blastobasinae to encourage and facilitate future study on this speciose taxon.