Genus *Arrhopalites* Börner 1906

Type species: *Sminthurus caecus* Tullberg, 1871


We include in this genus all Nearctic Sminthuridae having 2+2 or fewer eyes. All species have a bothriotrichal pattern of type A, with A and B close together and remote from C; trochanters with 3 setae and an oval or round trochanteral organ; acuminate tenent hairs; slender apical unguicular filaments; dens with an inner basal projection, the dental papilla, and some peg- or spinelike setae; and a trough-shaped mucro with both edges serrate. Seta E1 is always spine-like. Males do not have any striking secondary sex organs; adult females have well-developed subanal appendages. Most species are white or pale to deep reddish, but a few dark blue forms are known.

Remarks

The general habitus of the genus (Fig. 902) plus the small number of eyes easily distinguishes this genus from all other Nearctic Sminthuridae. The female subanal appendage is very useful in species recognition; this organ is so important that it is difficult to identify males with certainty unless they are associated with females, but since males are rare in most collections this is usually not a serious problem. The dorsal and ventral dental chaetotaxy (Fig. 903) are also useful. In our species seta E1 is always spine-like. Other setae are variable, present or absent and varying from slender and setiform to heavy and spine-like, and are taxonomically useful. The number of the fourth antennal segment subsegments, the cephalic chaetotaxy (Fig. 904) and the shape of the setae, and the form of the unguis and unguiculus, the apical setae of the third antennal segment (Fig. 904.1) and the female circumanal setae (Fig. 904.2 and table XLII A) are all valuable in taxonomy (see Christiansen & Bellinger 1996). The tibiotarsal chaetotaxy (see Nayrolles 1988) is also useful but is much more difficult to analyze.

Most species of the genus have so far only been found in caves, often on water surfaces in the caves.