

A new species of *Elachiptera* Macquart from the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador, and the taxonomic status of *Ceratobarys* Coquillett (Diptera: Chloropidae)

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Abstract

Elachiptera cultrata sp. nov. is described from the Galápagos Islands, Ecuador. This species is most similar to the northern Neotropical species *E. attenuata* (Adams), except for the shape of the arista and the male genitalia. The monotypic genus *Ceratobarys* is synonymized with *Elachiptera*, and its type species *C. eulophus* (Loew) transferred to *Elachiptera* as *E. eulophus* comb. nov. The only morphological character that distinguishes the two genera is the presence of a long, apical, hind-tibial spur in *Ceratobarys*. Although this character defines some apparently monophyletic genera of Chloropidae, its presence and size are subject to homoplasy in other genera. The presence of a small hind-tibial spur in some species of *Elachiptera*, and the great similarity in other external and genital characters between *Ceratobarys* and some species of *Elachiptera* makes recognition of *Ceratobarys* untenable.

Key words: Chloropidae, Oscinellinae, *Elachiptera*, *Ceratobarys*, Neotropical, Nearctic, Systematics

Introduction

There are many monotypic genera in the family Chloropidae. Most of these genera are distinguished by the presence or absence of a particular character that excludes them from larger, otherwise similar genera. This is problematic for many reasons: in the absence of a testable phylogenetic hypothesis on chloropid relationships it is often difficult to determine whether such characters are apomorphic; it is difficult to determine whether recognition of such genera renders other genera paraphyletic; and these defining characters are often homoplastic, used to define some genera, but accepted as variable in others.