



Revision of the Costa Rican species of *Elachiptera* (Diptera: Chloropidae)

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Abstract

The Costa Rican species of the genus *Elachiptera* are revised. There are seven described species in the region: *Elachiptera attenuata* (Adams); *E. coniotrigona* Duda; *E. fucosa* **sp. n.** (type locality: Costa Rica: Santo Domingo de Heredia); *E. melinifrons* **sp. n.** (type locality: Costa Rica: San José); *E. queposana* **sp. n.** (type locality: Costa Rica: Quepos); *E. rubida* Becker and *E. sacculicornis* (Enderlein). An additional species (*Elachiptera* sp. A) is known from a single female specimen and is not formally described. Only one of these species (*E. attenuata*) had previously been recorded from Costa Rica.

Key words: Diptera, Chloropidae, *Elachiptera*, systematics, Neotropical

Introduction

The oscinelline chloropid genus *Elachiptera* Macquart is recognized by a thickened, strap-like arista, a reniform third antennal segment, a dorsally flattened scutellum and apical scutellar bristles arising from tubercles (Andersson 1977). *Elachiptera* is widespread in most geographic realms, but the majority of described species are Holarctic (Sabrosky 1948, 1965, Nartshuk 1984) or Afrotropical (Sabrosky 1980). Thirteen species have been recorded in the Neotropical region, mostly from South America (Sabrosky and Paganelli 1984, Wheeler and Forrest 2002). Three species have been previously reported from Central America but only one, *E. attenuata* (Adams), from Costa Rica (Sabrosky and Paganelli 1984).

Despite the dearth of published records, the true species richness of Chloropidae in Central America is much higher than currently documented (Wheeler, unpublished data) and *Elachiptera* is one of the genera that has proven to be more diverse than previously known. The primary goal of the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad's (INBio) Diptera of Costa Rica project is to document and describe the diversity of the Diptera of the region. To contribute to the INBio Diptera project, and to facilitate the identification of Costa Rican Chloropidae, the Costa Rican species of *Elachiptera* are revised in this paper, including the description of three new species.

Material and methods

Specimens examined are housed in the Lyman Entomological Museum, McGill University, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC (LEM) and the United States National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, USA (USNM). Some paratypes of new species will be deposited in the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica.