



Grallipeza Rondani (Diptera: Micropezidae: Taeniapterinae) of the Caribbean and North America

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Abstract

The Caribbean and North American species of the large, otherwise neotropical genus *Grallipeza* Rondani (Diptera: Micropezidae: Taeniapterinae) are revised and keyed. One species, *G. nebulosa* (Loew), is endemic to the southeastern United States and eighteen species are endemic to single Caribbean islands. Of these, the following nine are described as new: *Grallipeza abeja*, *G. albiterga*, *G. cliffi*, *G. grenada*, *G. marleyi*, *G. mellea*, *G. paraplacida*, *G. perezi* and *G. turba*.

Key words: Micropezidae, *Grallipeza*, Diptera, Caribbean, Antilles, Key

Introduction

Grallipeza Rondani is a genus of about 40 described and at least as many undescribed species, occurring mostly in South and Central America but with one southeastern North American species and 18 Caribbean species (including nine described below). Most species of *Grallipeza*, including all of those in the area covered by this paper, are relatively small (11 mm or less), orange or partly orange micropezids diagnosed as members of the genus by the combination of a plumose arista (sometimes secondarily short-haired), a short anal cell, and a broad but almost parallel-sided and flat (or almost flat) frontal vitta.

The nineteen *Grallipeza* species of the Caribbean and the southeastern United States are here treated as the *G. placida* group. The *G. placida* group shows a high level of endemism throughout the Caribbean, with one species in the southeastern United States, one endemic species known from each of Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Montserrat and Grenada, and multiple endemic species in Dominica, Hispaniola, Jamaica, and Cuba. No *Grallipeza* species are known from both the Caribbean (excluding Trinidad) and Central or South America; no members of the *G. placida* group were found among several hundred South or Central American *Grallipeza* specimens examined as part of an ongoing revision of the Neotropical species in the genus (previous records of Caribbean species from Costa Rica are suspect). The Caribbean genus *Hoplocheiloma* Cresson shows a similar pattern of endemism and diversity in the region, including species in the West Indies and in the southeastern United States (Marshall 2011).

Caribbean *Grallipeza* have been recorded from sea level to over 1000m, but frequently occur in accessible, low-altitude sites and are often found in disturbed areas such as cacao plantations. They routinely display conspicuously on leaves and are relatively easy to collect. Despite this, good collections of *Grallipeza* are available from relatively few islands and further Caribbean species undoubtedly remain undiscovered. The current paper covers all ten described species and nine new species of *Grallipeza* from the Caribbean and United States.

Material and methods

Including type specimens, approximately 800 Caribbean *Grallipeza* specimens were available for this study. Some are from the author's limited collecting in St. Lucia, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic but most were from the following collections: