

Haromyia, a new genus of long-legged flies from Dominica
(Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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Abstract

The new micro-dolichopodid genus Haromyia gen. nov. and the type species H. iviei sp. nov. are described from the island of Dominica in the Lesser Antilles. Males and females of Haromyia are distinguished by the large setae on a bulging clypeus, minute size, and wing veins that are nearly straight and evenly diverging from wing base. Haromyia does not fit readily into any contemporary dolichopodid subfamily, although it superficially resembles the Enliniinae and Achalcinae. Haromyia should be regarded as incertae sedis until the dolichopodid subfamilies can be refined, particularly to better incorporate the tropical diversity of this large family.

Key words: Neotropical, micro-dolichopodid, Enlinia, Harmstonia, West Indies, Achalcinae, clypeal setae

Introduction

Robinson’s monograph of the Dolichopodidae of Dominica (Robinson 1975), a product of the multi-year Bredin-Archbold-Smithsonian Biological Survey, documented 113 species in 30 genera from the island. Three new genera, Cryptopygiella Robinson, Dominicomypia Robinson, Micromedetera Robinson, and 69 new species were described in that work (Robinson 1975). Only one genus and species has been added to the dolichopodid fauna of Dominica in the subsequent 40 years: an undescribed species of Chimerothalassius Shamshev & Grootaert identified by Brooks & Cumming (2011).

Here, I describe a new genus and species of minute Dolichopodidae from Dominica based on six specimens collected in a Malaise trap in 2011. This fly belongs to the group informally referred to as ‘micro-dolichopodids’, a diverse and interesting component of the Nearctic and Neotropical dolichopodid fauna (Robinson 1969; Bickel 2009; Runyon & Robinson 2010). These species are 1.5 mm long or less and belong to several probably unrelated genera including: Enlinia Aldrich, Harmstonia Robinson, Hurleyella Runyon & Robinson, Microchrysotus Robinson, Microcyrtura Robinson, and Micromedetera. The diversity, distributions, and hypothesized relationships of the micro-Dolichopodidae were discussed in Runyon & Robinson (2010). Due to their small size, micro-dolichopodids are often overlooked and there is little doubt that many species await collection, something exemplified by the discovery of Haromyia on the well-collected, small island of Dominica.

Material and methods

Structural terminology follows McAlpine (1981), except for genitalia which follow Cumming et al. (1995) and Sinclair & Cumming (2006). The postabdomen on intact specimens is rotated approximately 180° and lateroflexed to the right, but in descriptions “dorsal” and “ventral” refer to the true morphological positions (e.g., “up” on genitalia of intact specimens is ventral). Legs are designated by roman numerals (e.g., Leg III = the hindleg). Genitalia were cleared using KOH and mounted in glycerin for examination and illustration; two whole specimens