

Species of *Rhodesiella* from Guangdong, South China (Diptera: Chloropidae)

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Abstract

Rhodesiella guangdongensis sp. nov. is described from Guangdong, China. Its relationship with related species of *Rhodesiella* is discussed.

Key words: Diptera, Chloropidae, *Rhodesiella*, new species, China

Introduction

The genus *Rhodesiella* Adams belongs to the tribe Rhodesiellini of the subfamily Oscinelinae (Andersson, 1977; Kanmiya, 1983). It is easily identified by the following characters: body predominantly blackened; eye bare, its long axis vertical; gena narrow; scutellum well-developed, often elongate with coarsely piliferous punctures on surface and distinct, setigerous tubercles on sides (Kanmiya, 1987). Species of *Rhodesiella* are very common in any general collection in the Afrotropical and Oriental regions. They usually rest or move about in a characterized manner on the lower surface of leaves of shrubs and are generally shade loving. Some species occupy leaves up to 4–5 m above the ground and a few occur on the inflorescence of banana plants. A few species can be collected by sweeping grass and other annuals. Larvae of some species develop in fungi. Generally most of the species are rather lethargic in their movements (Cherian, 2002). It is worldwide in distribution with about 130 known species and predominantly rich in species in the broad-leaved forests of the Afrotropical and Oriental regions. 100 species of the genus have been known from the Oriental and Palaearctic regions (Sabrosky, 1977; Kanmiya, 1983, 1987; Nartshuk, 1984; Yang & Yang, 1993, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2003; Yang, 2002; Cherian, 2002). There are 25 species from China, including 14 from continental China, which were studied mainly by Yang & Yang (1993, 1995, 2003) and Yang (2002). The