



## Non-marine *Chersodromia* Walker from Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea (Diptera, Empidoidea, Hybotidae)

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### Abstract

Two small species of *Chersodromia* Walker are described from lowland rain forest in Papua New Guinea and Thailand: *C. flavicaput* **sp. nov.** (Papua New Guinea, Thailand) and *C. obscura* **sp. nov.** (Thailand). The species are almost completely white, except for the contrastingly black eyes. Although the eyes touching on the face and wing venation suggest affinities with *Nanodromia* Grootaert, the extended gena, bristling on the apical half of the hind tibia and structure of the male genitalia indicate inclusion in *Chersodromia*. The new species represent the first non-marine *Chersodromia* reported from Southeast Asia and Papua New Guinea.

**Key words:** Diptera, Empidoidea, Hybotidae, Drapetini, *Chersodromia*, *Nanodromia*, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, new species

### Introduction

*Chersodromia* Walker, 1849 is a genus of small flies that are usually found on sandy beaches in the littoral zone. Only a few species occur inland (Chvála 1977). Even then, they usually follow the shores of large rivers. About 50 species have been described and they are undoubtedly distributed worldwide. Three species are known from the northern coasts of New Guinea (Grootaert 1994) and two species from the Oriental coasts (Shamshev & Grootaert 2005).

From time to time, very small *Chersodromia*-like species are found in terrestrial samples in New Guinea and Southeast Asia. They are very pale, almost white and have also a pale occiput. They are a bit aberrant from "usual" *Chersodromia* in that the eyes are touching on the face (not touching in typical *Chersodromia*, though sometimes linear in the *C. incana*-group), wing with vein  $R_1$  very short and ending well before middle of wing (longer, and ending close to middle of wing in costa in other *Chersodromia*) and vein  $R_{2+3}$  ending in costa before or near middle of wing (always beyond middle of wing in typical *Chersodromia*). Consequently  $R_s$  is shorter than in other *Chersodromia* species. These characters in addition to the fact that the species are found in rain forest, initially made us hesitate to describe them in *Chersodromia* and made us wonder if they might be better placed in the apparently related genus *Nanodromia*. Most other characters agree with *Chersodromia* including long bristles on hind tibiae and the gena extended below the eye, typical characters of *Chersodromia*. The spine-like bristles on the mid tibiae of the male sex in *Chersodromia* are not present, but there is an ornamentation that is probably homologous. We are now convinced that these tiny flies belong to *Chersodromia*.