



Revision of the Neotropical genus *Goniaspis* Duda (Diptera: Chloropidae)

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Abstract

The Neotropical genus *Goniaspis* Duda is revised. The genus includes ten species: *G. equalis* (Williston) (type locality: Saint Vincent); *G. lucia* **sp. n.** (type locality: Saint Lucia); *G. lurida* **sp. n.** (type locality: Blue Creek, Belize); *G. obscurata* Duda (type locality: San José, Costa Rica); *G. opaca* **sp. n.** (type locality: San José, Costa Rica); *G. rubra* (Becker) (type species of genus, type locality: Sierra san Lorenzo, Colombia); *G. scutellaris* (Williston) (type locality: Saint Vincent); *G. subaequalis* (Malloch) (type locality: Montserrat, Trinidad); *G. truncata* (Malloch) (type locality: Trece Aguas, Guatemala); and *G. versicolor* **sp. n.** (type locality: La Paz, Bolivia). The identity of *G. peruana* Duda cannot be determined and it is considered a *species inquirenda*. All recognized species are described and illustrated, and a key to species is included. *Goniaspis* has been assigned to the *Hippelates* genus group (or tribe Hippelatini) in previous higher classifications of the Chloropidae, based primarily on the possession of a strong, ventral, hind-tibial spur. However, this character state is subject to frequent homoplasy in the Chloropidae, and multiple morphological character states suggest that *Goniaspis* may be more closely related to the genus *Elachiptera* Macquart.

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

Introduction

The species of the chloropid genus *Goniaspis* Duda are restricted to the Neotropical region. The genus is distinguished by the combination of a long, apicoventral, hind-tibial spur, a trapezoidal scutellum, a long slender arista and a long shining frontal triangle. Duda (1930) proposed the genus for three species: *Cadrema rubra* Becker, *G. obscurata* Duda and *G. peruana* Duda. Subsequently, Sabrosky (1941a) transferred four other described species to the genus: *Hippelates equalis* Williston, *H. scutellaris* Williston, *H. subaequalis* Malloch and *H. truncata* Malloch.

Nartshuk (1987) assigned *Goniaspis* to the subfamily Hippelatinae, treated by other authors (e.g., Andersson 1977, Kanmiya 1983) as a tribe or genus group within Oscinellinae, based on the presence of a large, apicoventral, hind-tibial spur. However, other morphological character states are inconsistent between *Goniaspis* and the remaining genera assigned to that tribe. Other discussions of the higher classification of Chloropidae (e.g., Andersson 1977, Kanmiya 1983) did not include *Goniaspis* because those studies were focused primarily on Old World genera. Sabrosky (1984) suggested a possible relationship to tribe Elachipterini or Botanobiini, but that work was a species checklist only and thus no justification or discussion of taxonomic decisions was given. Consequently, the placement of *Goniaspis* within the Chloropidae remains unresolved.

The genus *Goniaspis* is revised in this paper, including descriptions of four new species. Nartshuk's (1987) hypothesis that *Goniaspis* is closely related to *Hippelates* Loew is also assessed, based on a broader sampling of morphological character states than in previous classifications.