

## SOME RECORDS OF LONG-LEGGED FLIES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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In the course of collecting all orders of insects for the University of British Columbia over a period of 17 years, a number of families in various orders have now reached the point where there are enough specimens to constitute at least a skeleton list, upon which further collecting will hang a representative picture of species for this Province. A start has to be made sooner or later and when even a fragmentary list is available, it serves as an incentive for special collecting in that particular direction. I hope to be able to put out several of these preliminary lists each year from now onwards if I can get the material identified, although it seems a hopeless task for a lone worker to undertake. Even if such lists serve little purpose at the moment, they may stimulate some other members of this Society to adopt any family and to specialize in it.

The *Dolichopodidae* or Long-legged flies (not long-headed flies as Curran has them in his priceless monograph of the Diptera of North America) are mostly metallic-green, smooth flies, usually less than one-third of an inch in length, which are predaceous on smaller insects. Cell M and 1st M<sup>2</sup> are not separated by a cross vein and there is almost always a bend in vein M<sup>1</sup> towards R<sup>4+5</sup> before it straightens out to reach the margin of the wing: this bend in M<sup>1</sup> is a good family characteristic.

The genitalia of the males is often adorned with long appendages which flutter pennant-like behind while the insects are in flight. These flies frequent the edges of woods or bodies of water; some species of the genus *Dolichopus* frequent spray-dashed rocks; the species of *Hydrophorus* occurs on the surface of small pools and on mud flats; those of *Hercostomus* occur chiefly on foliage,

and species of *Neurigona* are found on tree trunks, chiefly of smooth-barked trees (Essig, and Curran). The tall grasses fringing alkaline pools and little lakes of the cattle ranges of the Dry Belt are good collecting sites for these flies, chiefly species of *Dolichopus*.

The list that follows is based on 132 flies, all, except two, of my collecting. I am deeply indebted to Dr. Fred C. Harmston of Logan, Utah, now Capt. F. C. Harmston of the Malaria Control Programme, Indianapolis, Indiana, for volunteering to identify these flies for me, especially in view of the fact that he undertook the work in the midst of his military duties and returned the specimens within ten days after receiving them; every collector who undertakes the identification of insects in the midst of his other duties will fully appreciate what this involves.

- Dolichopus plumipes*** Scop.—Nanaimo Nicola.  
***D. bruesi*** Van D.—Sidney, V.I., Summerland.  
***D. nigricauda*** Van D.—Kamloops.  
***D. robertsoni*** Curran—Chilcotin.  
***D. rodescens*** M & B—Kamloops, Chilcotin.  
***D. obcordatus*** Ald.—Nicola, Kamloops, Chilcotin.  
***D. occidentalis*** Ald.—Departure Bay (Nanaimo), Vancouver.  
***D. idahoensis*** Ald.—Nicola.  
***D. adaequatus*** Van D.—Kamloops, Chilcotin.  
***D. maculitarsis*** Van D.—Kamloops.  
***D. conspectus*** Van D.—Chilcotin.  
***Hercostomus tristis*** Lev.—Tofino, V.I.  
***H. metatarsalis*** Thom.—Chapman.  
***Neurigona*** sp.—Chilcotin.  
***Melanderia mandibulata*** Ald.—Skidegate.  
***Scelus monstrosus*** O.S.—Tofino, Nicola, Kamloops, Chilcotin.  
***S. avidus***—Nicola.  
***Scelus*** sp.—Chilcotin.  
***Hydrophorus breviseta*** Thom.—Royal Oak (Victoria), Summerland.  
***Rhaphium*** sp.—Nicola.  
***Rhaphium*** sp.—Summerland, Kamloops, Chilcotin.  
***Parasyntormon occidentalis***—Chilcotin.  
 There are apparently 2 new spp. of ***Rhaphium***.

About 2,000 species of this family have been named to date. This preliminary list for nine localities of this Province includes twenty species in eight genera—the number of species being one-hundredth of the world's total. Without

doubt further collecting, purposely for this family, will greatly add to this total, which shows that the *Dolichopodidae* are very well represented in British Columbia.

## RECORDS OF SOME FLIES AND WASPS COLLECTED AT ROBSON, B.C. (Diptera: Tabanidae; Hymenoptera)

HAROLD R. FOXLEE

Robson, B. C.

The following species were all collected by me at Robson, B.C. I am indebted to Dr. L. L. Pechuman for identifying the Tabanidae, and to Mr. H. D. Pratt for the names of the Hymenoptera.

### DIPTERA

#### Tabanidae

- Tabanus haemaphorus* Mart.—30. VII. 39.  
*Tabanus laniferus* McD.—21. VIII. 37; 24. VII. 38; 20. VII. 39.  
*Tabanus procyon* O.S.—29. IV. 39; 21. IV. 40; 7. V. 40.  
*Tabanus rhombicus* var. *rupestris* McD.—26. VII. 39.  
*Stonemyia californica* Big.—10. VII. 37.  
*Silvius gigantulus* Lw.—25. VI. 37.  
*Chrysops pertinax* Will.—June to September.  
*Chrysops excitans* Walk.—29. VI. 40.

### HYMENOPTERA

#### Ichneumonidae

- Trogus fulvipes* Cress.—June 11, 12.  
*Hoplismanus pacificus* Cress.—June 24.

#### Cryptinae

- Acrorcus excelsus* Cress. — July 16; Aug. 6.  
*Echthrus vancouverensis* Brad. — April 24; May 23.  
*Cryptus altonii* D. T.—May 24; Aug. 20.

#### Pimplinae

- Rhyssa alaskensis* Ashm.—July 9.  
*Rhyssella nitida* Cress.—June 19.  
*Coleocentrus occidentalis* Cress.—July 9.  
*Xorides harringtoni* Roh.—Aug. 13.

- Lissonota brunnea* Cress.—Sept. 7.  
*Gylloceria occidentalis* Cress.—Oct. 5.  
*Deuteroxorides borealis* Cress.—Aug. 9.  
*Pimpla pedalis* Cress.—April 11; Oct. 22.  
*Itopectis obesus* Cush.—Oct. 22.  
*Apechthis picticornis* Cress.—Sept. 2.  
*Perithous pleuralis* Cress.—July; August; September.

#### Tryphoninae

- Diplazon pulchripes* Prov.—Oct. 22.

#### Ophioninae

- Campoplegidea vitticollis* Norton.—Oct. 22.  
*Therion morio* Fab.—June; July.  
*Cidaphus occidentalis* Cush.—July 2.

#### Aulacidae

- Neaulacus occidentalis* Cress.—May 30; July 13.  
*Odontaulacus editus* Cress.—May; June; July.  
*Pristaulacus montanus* Cress.—July 2.

MARATHYSSA INFICITA WALKER AT OLIVER, B.C. (Lepidoptera: Phalaenidae). Mr. E. Peter Venables found an outbreak of this species in July, 1942. The only previous British Columbia record in the literature available is for Lillooet, without mention of a host plant.

On July 17 the chunky green caterpillars, close resembling sawfly larvae, were taken on sumac bushes (*Rhus glabra*) along the highway 4 miles north of Oliver. At the time only a few specimens were present, but there must have been thousands a little earlier, as for miles the sumacs were almost stripped of leaves. The caterpillars were given to the Forest Inset Survey unit, and identified by M. W. C. McGuffin of Ottawa.—Hugh B. Leech.