

A new brachypterous species of *Elachiptera* Becker (Diptera: Chloropidae) from freshwater wetlands in eastern Canada

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Abstract

Elachiptera aquila sp. nov. is described from freshwater wetlands in Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Its apparent sister species is *Elachiptera salinaria* Sabrosky and Valley, known from coastal salt marshes in the eastern United States. Although there are Palearctic *Elachiptera* that are polymorphic for wing length, this is the first brachypterous species of the genus described from North America.

Key Words: Chloropidae, Diptera, *Elachiptera*, Nearctic, brachypterous, systematics

Introduction

Elachiptera Becker is one of the more easily recognized genera of Nearctic Chloropidae, primarily because of the broad, strap-like arista that characterizes most included species. Below the generic level, however, many species of *Elachiptera* are morphologically uniform. One of the exceptions is *Elachiptera salinaria* Sabrosky and Valley, a salt marsh species from the eastern United States that can be easily distinguished from other Nearctic *Elachiptera* species by the broadly rounded occipital margin of the head (Sabrosky and Valley 1987). A new species, apparently closely related to *E. salinaria*, is described here from freshwater wetland habitats in eastern Canada. This is the first brachypterous species of Nearctic *Elachiptera*.

Materials and Methods

Specimens were initially preserved in 70% ethanol and subsequently prepared using a critical-point dryer or chemically dried using hexamethyldisilazane. Type specimens of the