# Article

# Proposed change in status of the Nearctic genus *Charadrodromia* Melander (Diptera: Hybotidae, Tachydromiinae), with description of four new species

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## Abstract

The genus *Charadrodromia* Melander is reviewed and considered here as a junior synonym of *Platypalpus* Macquart. All three species originally included in the former group are re-described (*P. arnaudi* (Melander, 1960) **comb. nov.**, *P. microphona* (Melander, 1928) **comb. nov.**, *P. syletor* (Melander, 1928) **comb. nov.**); the photos of the habitus for each species based on the type specimens are provided; the male of *P. syletor* is described for the first time; and the lectotype of *P. microphona* is designated. Also, among unidentified materials assigned to the former *Charadrodromia* four new species are revealed: *P. cummingi* Shamshev & Grootaert **sp. nov.** (USA, California), *P. layiaphilus* Shamshev & Grootaert **sp. nov.** (USA, California), *P. submicrophona* Shamshev & Grootaert **sp. nov.** (USA, California), *P. tanbarkiensis* Shamshev & Grootaert **sp. nov.** (USA, California). The lectotype of the related *P. canus* Melander, 1902 is designated, the species is re-described, and figures of male terminalia are provided for the first time. The systematic position of species assigned to the former *Charadrodromia* is discussed and they are provisionally assigned to the *P. hackmani* group previously known from the Palaearctic. A key to the eight included species is provided.

**Key words:** Diptera, Hybotidae, *Charadrodromia*, *Platypalpus*, new synonymy, new combination, Nearctic

## Introduction

Currently, the tribe Tachydromiini in the subfamily Tachydromiinae (Diptera: Hybotidae) includes the following eight genera: *Ariasella* Gil, *Charadrodromia* Melander, *Dysaletria* Loew, *Pieltainia* Arias, *Platypalpus* Macquart, *Tachydromia* Meigen, *Tachyempis* Melander, and *Tachypeza* Meigen (Sinclair & Cumming 2006). The genus *Charadrodromia* is a little-known group of tachydromiines that is restricted in distribution to western North America. Melander (1928) erected *Charadrodromia* to include two species described by him from the Pacific coast of Washington State (USA), *C. microphona* Melander (the type species) and *C. syletor* Melander. Later, in one of his last papers on empidoids, Melander (1960) added to this group one more new species (*C. arnaudi* Melander) taken from California and included a key to the three described species. The genus has never been revised and none of the species has been illustrated.

Initially, the aim of our study was to test the validity of *Charadrodromia* as a separate genus within Tachydromiinae by revising the type materials of the included species. After reviewing an early version of our manuscript Bradley Sinclair and Jeffrey Cumming (Ottawa, Canada) suggested examining material deposited in Canadian National Collection of Insects & Arachnids and the California Academy of Sciences that they had assigned to *Charadrodromia*. We agreed to study this material in the hope that it would provide a chance to find males of *C. microphona* and *C. syletor*, which were known from females only and to see if any new species were included.

In this paper we propose a change of status of *Charadrodromia*, provide re-descriptions and photos of the habitus for each species and illustrate the male terminalia of *C. arnaudi* and *C. syletor* (the male described for the first time). Also, four new species are described based on unidentified material assigned to *Charadrodromia*. Provisionally, all species are assigned to the *Platypalpus hackmani* group, known previously only from the Palaearctic Region.

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