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## NEW NEOTROPICAL *ERAX* IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (DIPTERA: ASILIDÆ)

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### HAITI

The following new species of *Erax* is represented by two specimens, a male and a female, collected in Haiti. Both are in the type collection of The American Museum of Natural History.

#### *Erax pachychæstus*, new species

Total length: ♂, 29 mm.; ♀, 33 mm. A large yellowish-gray species with the antennal arista thickened toward the tip. It is closely allied to *Erax stylatus* Fabricius but differs in having the femora reddish instead of black. It is also slightly larger.

**MALE.**—Mystax, palpal hairs, occipital bristles and bristles of the vertex light yellowish. Facial and occipital pruinosity light yellowish. Two or three black bristles in upper part of mystax and two on the ocellar tubercle. Beard white. Antennæ dark reddish except third segment and arista which are black. Arista long, slightly longer than first three segments, curved and slightly thickened preapically. Proboscis black. Palpi dark reddish with one or two black bristles.

Thorax light grayish-yellow pollinose with a brown median stripe (median area lighter) and brown lateral spots. Pleura, coxæ, and scutellum with light yellowish pile. Fine short hairs on dorsum of thorax black, and a few black bristles, with yellowish bristles intermingled, posteriorly. Legs dark reddish, the tibiæ lightest. Tarsi and tips of tibiæ nearly black. Hairs on legs light yellowish; bristles black. A row of strong bristles on under side of posterior femora. An anterior-dorsal area on the first two femora is dark, nearly black. Scutellum reddish, but covered with a grayish pruinosity which obscures this coloration.

Wings lightly tinged with brown merging to hyaline basally. The costal border is dilated as in *E. stylatus* Fabricius. The stump vein is absent.

Abdomen black with whitish hairs, segments six and seven white pruinose. Genitalia large, elongate, piceous with black hairs.

**FEMALE.**—Similar, except wings are lighter, the costal border not dilated and the stump vein is present. Ovipositor long, piceous.

Holotype, male, La Morinière, Haiti, March 1-5, 1922, alt. about 125 ft., F.4638. Allotype, female, Pivert, Haiti, April 1, 1922, alt. about 250 ft., F.4657. Both collected by F. E. Watson.

### BRAZIL

The following 7 species are all from Brazil and were part of the S. W. Williston Collection now in The American Museum of Natural History.

The species are all small and belong to the subdivision of *Erax* in which the posterior branch of the third vein meets the margin behind the apex of the wing.

***Erax willistoni*, new species**

Total length: 9–12 mm. A small blackish species with all black legs, the costal margin not dilated in the male, the mystax black above and golden below, abdomen black with white margins and incisures, the seventh segment white in the male and the hypopygium with conspicuous tufts of brownish hairs below. Belongs to Hine's *æstuans* group where the furcation of the third vein is opposite the base of the second posterior cell and the posterior branch of the third vein curves backward at its tip meeting the margin behind the apex of the wing. There are, however, three submarginal cells as in the *anomalus* group.

MALE.—Antennæ, proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, upper bristles of mystax, occipital bristles and the two long bristles on the ocellar tubercle, black. Beard pale yellow; lower portion of mystax golden. Face golden pruinose on sides, median portion black.

Thorax grayish-yellow pollinose, coxal hairs golden, mesonotal bristles black. Mesonotum with black median line and side spots. Scutellum light gray pollinose with a few fine black hairs on its disc and two marginal black bristles. Legs black. Wings hyaline becoming very lightly suffused with a yellowish tint beyond the middle. Apex light gray. Three submarginal cells as in *Erax anomalus*, etc. Halteres dull yellowish. Abdomen black with margins and incisures white. The seventh segment white. Hypopygium long, slightly narrower than the seventh segment, shining black. The under side with two thick tufts of brownish hairs. Eighth sternite with several long black bristles.

FEMALE.—Similar; ovipositor compressed, black, slightly longer than segments 5, 6, and 7 together.

Holotype, ♂, Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection, no date. Allotype, ♀, Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection, no date. 15 ♂ and 7 ♀ paratopotypes, S. W. Williston Collection, November–January.

***Erax subchalybeus*, new species**

Total length: ♂, 13 mm.; ♀, 18 mm. *Æstuans* group (Hine), the furcation of the third vein beyond the base of the second posterior cell, and the posterior branch of the third vein meeting the margin behind the apex. The species is characterized by the entirely black legs and general bluish-gray color of the body. The costal margin is slightly dilated in the male and the stump vein is slightly shorter than the base of the third vein.

MALE.—Proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, upper portion of mystax, hairs of vertex and bristles of occiput black. Antennæ missing. Beard and post-genal hairs white as are some of the lower and side hairs of the mystax. Face and occiput whitish pruinose, the ENSEMBLE giving a very light bluish-gray effect. Thorax blue-gray pollinose, the usual median line and side spots being blue-black. Disc of mesonotum covered rather thickly with black hairs. Coxal hairs whitish. Legs black, rather thickly covered with white hairs. Bristles black. The tibiæ and posterior tarsi on the inner side thickly covered with very short, even, fine, golden-brown pile. Wings hyaline

becoming slightly tinged with brownish apically. Scutellum blue-gray with whitish and black hairs and black bristles on the margin. Base of abdomen blue-gray at sides, black dorsally, the posterior margins white, sixth and seventh segments all white, the fifth white with an anterior black spot. A thick patch of black bristles and white hairs at sides of segments 1-4. Hypopygium shining black with black hairs, longer than segments five, six and seven together, and dorsally at base slightly narrower than seventh segment becoming about the same width at seven-eighths of its length.

**FEMALE.**—Similar to male, the light abdominal markings being more blue-gray than white and proportionately narrower. Ovipositor black, about the length of segments five, six and seven together.

Holotype, ♂, Rio de Janeiro, November, S. W. Williston Collection. Allotype, ♀, Rio de Janeiro, November, S. W. Williston Collection.

#### ***Erax chapadensis*, new species**

Total length: ♂, 14 mm.; ♀, 14 mm. Belongs to *xestuans* group (Hine) and characterized by the black legs with bases of the tibiae dark brown, the abdomen in the male white, hypopygium large, black, thickly covered with black hairs beneath, and the short third antennal joint which is oval and about two-thirds the length of the first. General coloration grayish with a faint brownish tint as in *E. xestuans* L.

**MALE.**—Antennae, proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, occipital bristles, upper portion of mystax and the two long ocellar bristles, black. Beard white or very faint yellowish, lower portion of mystax pale golden; facial pruinosity grayish. Thorax brownish gray with the usual black markings. Mesonotal bristles black with a few white hairs; coxae with pale yellow hairs. Legs black, bases of tibiae dark brown or piceous, bristles black, fine hairs white. A row of stout black bristles on under side of hind femur. Scutellum grayish with fine white hairs. Two long bristles on margin (one black and one yellowish). Wings hyaline or nearly so. Stump vein absent. Costa not dilated. Halteres dark brown. Abdomen, except hypopygium, whitish pollinose with short fine scattered white hairs more or less appressed, eighth sternite keeled below with a marginal fringe of fine white bristles. Hypopygium black, from above narrower than the seventh segment and about the length of the fifth, sixth, and seventh segments together. From the side, the claspers are notched at the apex with a tooth projecting downward at the lower apex. Under side thickly covered with black pile.

**FEMALE.**—Similar, but a very short stump vein present and with the abdomen gray-pollinose nearly bare dorsally giving the effect of black maculations which cover the tergites except the lateral and posterior margins. Ovipositor black, about as long as segments five, six, and seven together.

Holotype, ♂, Chapada, November, S. W. Williston Collection. Allotype, ♀, Chapada, November, S. W. Williston Collection.

#### ***Erax latiforceps*, new species**

Total length: 15 mm. A grayish species of the *xestuans* group, having all black legs, hyaline wings with three submarginal cells, the costal margin abruptly dilated at two-thirds the distance from base to apex, and the hypopygium from above broader than the seventh segment.

MALE.—Antennæ, proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, bristles of vertex, occipital bristles, and upper portion of mystax black. Beard, occipital hairs, white. Lower portion of mystax golden. Thorax yellowish gray with the usual black markings. The median line, however, is divided longitudinally by a narrow line of gray. Bristles and hairs of mesonotum black, of pleura whitish, of coxæ pale yellow. Legs black. Scutellum grayish with two black marginal bristles, and many fine white erect hairs on disc. Wings hyaline, an abrupt outward bulge in the costa at about two-thirds the distance from base to apex. The stump vein is prolonged to meet the first longitudinal vein forming three submarginal cells. Abdomen black, base of first segment and sides of 2-5 white, the posterior margins appear to be brownish but this may be due to discoloration and originally may have been narrowly white. Sixth and seventh segments white. Hypopygium black with black hairs (appears to be denuded and under side is partly broken). From above the base appears narrower than the seventh segment but broadens until at about three-fourths its length it is fully as broad as the second segment of the abdomen. Abdomen with a tuft of sordid white hairs at side of first segment and along sides of segments 2-5 becoming shorter posteriorly.

Holotype, ♂, Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection.

#### ***Erax badiapex*, new species**

Total length: ♂, 13 mm.; ♀, 13 mm. A brownish-gray species with mystax composed of black bristles and white hairs, costa dilated in male, and the legs dull reddish except the basal three-fourths of the femora which are black. *Æstuans* group (Hine).

MALE.—Proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, occipital bristles, hairs of vertex, and a considerable portion of the mystax black. First two joints of antennæ blackish, rest missing. Facial pruinosity yellowish gray. Mystax with black bristles and white hairs. Beard white. Thorax brownish gray with the usual black markings. Scutellum brownish gray with white and a few black hairs. Rather long white hairs and about four black bristles along the margin. Coxal hairs whitish. Legs light reddish-brown except basal three-fourths of femora which is black. Legs with black bristles and fine white hairs. Wings with a faint yellowish tinge, veins reddish, costa dilated. Abdomen black with whitish lateral and posterior margins. Hairs fine, white. Sixth and seventh segments white, hypopygium dark brown with black hairs, from above narrower than seventh segment, rather short and thick.

FEMALE.—Apparently an undersized specimen, somewhat greased. No black hairs or bristles on scutellum. Ovipositor slightly shorter than fifth, sixth, and seventh segments together. Stump vein present in female, absent in male.

Holotype, ♂ Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection. Allotype, ♀, Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection.

#### ***Erax pulchripes*, new species**

Total length: 14 mm. A contrastingly marked species, grayish with golden beard, mystax and tibia. The furcation of the third vein is distinctly before the base of the second posterior cell and the posterior branch of the third vein meets the margin behind the apex of the wing.

MALE.—Antennæ, proboscis, hairs of vertex, occipital bristles, palpi, palpal hairs and a few bristles of upper part of mystax black. Four long ocellar bristles black. Facial pruinosity yellowish gray. Most of mystax and beard golden. Thorax gray with a faint yellowish tinge. Thoracic markings contrastingly black, the median line divided anteriorly by a gray linear streak. Mesonotal bristles black. Scutellum gray with two black bristles at margin and a few very small, fine, white hairs on its disc. Fore coxæ with thick golden hair, other coxæ with paler hair. Femora shining black contrasting sharply with the yellow of the tibiæ. Tarsi, tip of posterior tibiæ, and a line on inner side of median and anterior tibiæ black. Wings hyaline, costa not dilated, halteres light brownish. Abdomen black, the lateral borders broadly and the posterior margins narrowly white. Sixth and seventh segments white. Eighth sternite with black bristles. Hypopygium rather long and slender, reddish brown, nearly bare, the few hairs present black.

Holotype, ♂, Piedra, Brazil, S. W. Williston Collection.

#### **Erax propinquus, new species**

Total length: 13 mm. Closely related to *E. pulchripes* from which it differs in having three submarginal cells, the wings having a brownish tinge, the white posterior margins of the abdominal segments broader, and the teeth on the lower side of the tip of the hypopygium yellowish and pointed. The furcation of the third vein is distinctly before the base of the second posterior cell and the posterior branch of the third vein meets the margin behind the apex of the wing. Its general appearance suggests *pulchripes*.

MALE.—Proboscis, palpi, palpal hairs, vestiture of vertex, occipital bristles and antennæ (first 2 segments; rest missing) black. Mystax black above, golden below. Beard pale yellowish, white posteriorly. Thorax light gray, mesonotal disc bluish gray with usual markings blue-black, the median line broadly divided linearly by a blue-gray streak. Femora and tarsi black, tibiæ yellow, except a line on the anterior aspect of the first two and the apical portion of the posterior which is black. Scutellum grayish, denuded. Wings suffused with a brownish tint, base lighter, three submarginal cells, costa not dilated. Halteres pale brown. Abdomen black, the lateral and posterior margins of segments 1-5 broadly white. Segment six mostly white, brownish or blackish anteriorly; segment seven all white. Hypopygium dark brown, produced anteriorly on the under side. A tuft of brown hairs on the under side (basally) and the lower side of the apex has a yellow, downward projecting acute tooth on each side.

Holotype, male, Chapada, S. W. Williston Collection. Paratopotype, male.

