

***Sororsenexa*—New Genus (Diptera: Empididae: Hemerodromiinae) from Australia**

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ABSTRACT. *Sororsenexa*, new genus (Insecta: Diptera: Empididae: Hemerodromiinae), is described from Australia. The genus is monotypic with *Sororsenexa macalpinei* n.sp. its type species. Systematic relationships with other Hemerodromiinae are discussed and a key to Australian genera of the tribe Chelipodini presented.

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The Empididae subfamily Hemerodromiinae comprises small predatory flies with characteristically inflated raptorial forelegs. Most of the 17 extant genera and 453 species currently described have been assigned to two monophyletic tribes, Hemerodromiini and Chelipodini, although the systematic position of some genera remains uncertain (Plant, 2011). However, many taxa remain undescribed at both species and genus levels, particularly in moist tropical and southern temperate forests. In Australia a single species *Chelipoda biroi* (Bezzi, 1904) is known (Smith, 1989) but judging from museum collections, a rich fauna of Hemerodromiini and Chelipodini is present, especially in the eastern mountain ranges and in Tasmania.

Several undescribed Australian Hemerodromiinae were included in a recent phylogenetic appraisal of the subfamily (Plant, 2011). One of these (designated GENAU[C] in that study) was considered to belong in Chelipodini but showed rather weak support as the sister-group of the rest of the tribe. It exhibits several important apomorphies including

having only a single row of short specialized setae beneath the front femur, an apicoventral spine on the front tibia, vein Sc fading not long after the branch point of Rs and especially the termination of the costa shortly beyond the apex of the wing and there can be little doubt that the taxon warrants generic status. The present work describes this taxon as a new genus comprising a single new species.

Materials and methods

Specimens used in this study were borrowed from or deposited in the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia and National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK. The general morphological terms of McAlpine (1981) and antennal nomenclature of Stuckenberg (1999) were employed and interpretation of genitalic homology followed Cumming *et al.* (1995) and Sinclair (2000). Maceration of genitalia was performed in hot (90°C) lactic acid (85% v/v).