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Description of the imago of Traverella longifrons Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996 (Ephemeroptera: Leptophlebiidae)

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## Description of the imago of *Traverella longifrons* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996 (Ephemeroptera: Leptophlebiidae)

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In 1996, Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty described the species *Traverella longifrons* from Costa Rica based on nymphs previously known under the informal epithet *Traverella* sp. B Allen (1973) from Honduras and Mexico. Here the imago of *T. longifrons* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty (1996) is described based on reared material from Panamá and additional material from Honduras.

Keywords: Neotropical; Ephemeroptera; Leptophlebiidae; imago; Traverella longifrons

#### Introduction

The family Leptophlebiidae (Ephemeroptera) is probably the most diverse in the Neotropics, with approximately 40 genera and 150 species, all belonging to the subfamily Atalophlebiinae. Some genera are monotypic, while others are species-rich (Domínguez, Molineri, Pescador, Hubbard and Nieto 2006).

The Hermanella group is composed of the following genera: Hermanella Needham & Murphy, 1924; Hydromastodon Polegatto & Batista, 2007; Hydrosmilodon Flowers & Domínguez, 1992; Hylister Domínguez & Flowers, 1989; Leentvaaria Demoulin, 1966; Needhamella Domínguez & Flowers, 1989; Paramaka Savage & Domínguez, 1992; and Traverella Edmunds, 1948. Kluge (2007) reduced all genera of the group to subgenera to fit his circumscriptional nomenclatural system; however, we prefer to follow a more conventional nomenclatural arrangement here. Within the Hermanella group are many species with adult stages undescribed, including Traverella longifrons Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996.

*Traverella* was established for *Thraulus albertanus* McDunnough, 1931, by Edmunds (1948) based on reared imagines and nymphs from Utah. He described and transferred many species to *Traverella*. In 1973, Allen reviewed *Traverella* nymphs from North and Central America, redescribed species and created some informal epithets (e.g. A, B, C), some of which were later formally named. Presently 13 species are attributed to *Traverella* although some are inadequately described so placement

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is dubious: *T. albertana* (= *T. castanea* Kilgore & Allen, 1973); *T. bradleyi* (Needham & Murphy, 1924); *T. calingastensis* Domínguez, 1995; *T. holzenthali* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty 1996; *T. lewisi* Allen, 1973; *T. montium* (Ulmer, 1943); *T. nervosa* (Eaton, 1992); *T. presidiana* (Traver, 1934); *T. promifrons* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996 (= species C of Allen); *T. sallei* (Navás, 1935); *T. valdemari* (Esben-Petersen, 1912); *T. versicolor* (Eaton, 1892); and *T. longifrons* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996 (= species B of Allen). Only seven of these species are described in the male imaginal stage. The genus is classified in two subgenera, *Traverella* (*Traverella*) with 12 species and *Traverella* (*Zonda*) Domínguez, 1995, with one species *T. (Zonda)* calingastensis. In this paper we describe the adult stages of *Traverella longifrons* based on reared material from Panama and additional imagines from Honduras. The material is deposited in the Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, Tallahassee, FL, USA (FAMU) and the United States Natural History Museum, Washington, DC (USNM).

#### Taxonomy

#### Traverella longifrons Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996 (Figure 1A-E)

*Material examined*. 1 3 imago, reared: Panama: Bocas del Toro Prov., Rio Teribe at Zegla, 24-IV-1985, R.W. Flowers & A. Gonzalez 3 3 imago: same data except 21-IV-1985, all deposited at FAMU. 1 3 imago, Panama: Darien, Rio Tuira at Rio Pucuro, 16–17 Feb 1985, J. Louton, deposited at USNM.

#### Male imago (in alcohol and styliger plate in glycerin)

Length. Body 6.5-7.4 mm; forewings 7.6-8.0 mm; hind wings 1.1-1.3 mm.

Head. Upper portion of eyes grey, lower portion black; antennae pale.

*Thorax*. Terga and sterna brown-yellowish with sutures dark brown. *Wings* (Figures 1A and B) hyaline, with bases shaded black; maximum width of forewings three times length of forewings; maximum width of hind wings two times the length of hind wings; maximum length of forewings 6 1/2 length of hind wings. Forewings (Figure 1A): costal membrane basal to bulla without cross veins; 115–120 cross veins in membrane. Hind wings (Figure 1B): base of costal projection broad, apex located slightly more than 1/2 distance from base to apex of wing. *Legs*. Foreleg with coxa and trochanter brown-yellowish; femur yellowish with apical and medial black maculae; tibia black, except pale apically; tarsomeres pale. Middle and hind legs with coxa and trochanter yellowish; femur, tibia and tarsus with same pattern as foreleg.

Abdomen (Figure 1C). Tergum I tinged black, terga II–VI translucent with a black posterior band, tergum VII tinged grey with a black posterior band, terga VIII–X yellow-brownish with a black posterior band; sterna I–VI hyaline; sterna VII–X yellowish. *Genitalia* (Figure 1D, E) yellowish; styliger plate with two long, thin, dorsally recurved spine-like projections; segments II and III of forceps short, segment II of forceps 1/7 to 1/8 length of segment I; penes divided in apical third, with a long, curved spine at apex. Cerci with broad black bands at the first segments.

#### Remarks

The imago of *T. longifrons* is very similar to two other species, *T. presidiana* and *T. albertana*. The styliger plate has similar projections with two fine, long spines projecting posteriorly, but the abdominal colour pattern is different from



Figure 1. *Traverella longifrons*. (A) Forewing; (B) hind wing (scale and enlarged); (C) abdominal colour pattern; (D) styliger plate (caudal view); (E) styliger plate (lateral view).

*T. presidiana* which has a pale brown or yellowish-white abdomen; in *T. longifrons* and in *T. albertana* most terga are translucent. The shape of penes of *T. longifrons* is different from *T. albertana*: in *T. longifrons* the apex is rounded, in *T. albertana* the apex is concave.

The main differential character present in the nymph is the shape of clypeal projection. In *T. longifrons* this is a distinct long, triangular fronto-clypeal process (see figure 4 in Allen 1973 or figure 41 in Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty 1996); in *T. presidiana* this is a large and spatulate projection; and in *T. albertana* it is a small projection.

The colour pattern of the male imago of *Traverella longifrons* strongly resembles *T. versicolor*, a species described from Caché, Costa Rica and Chiriqui, Panamá (Eaton 1892) from female imagines and subimagines and placed in *Traverella* by Edmunds (1950). Although *T. longifrons* is a potential synonym, the female described by Eaton has not yet been associated with males or by rearing from the

nymph. *Traverella longifrons* is thus a potential synonym of *T. versicolor*, but we defer from formalising this status until the missing stages are associated.

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