



Erpetogomphus molossus, a new species from Sonora, Mexico (Odonata: Anisoptera: Gomphidae)

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Abstract

Erpetogomphus molossus is described from 3 male and 3 female specimens (holotype and allotype in collection of Instituto Biológico de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México) from the intermittent pine-oak woodland of the Yécora municipio in east-central Sonora, Mexico. Diagnostic features of the new species include the seemingly bulbous tip (in lateral view) and prominent baso-ventral process of the male cerci and the notched and denticled posteromesal corners of the female subgenital plate.

Key words: *Erpetogomphus molossus*, new species, Mexico, Sonora

Introduction

Members of the genus *Erpetogomphus* Selys, 1858, are small to medium-sized dragonflies with short legs and hyaline (or faintly flavescent) wings. They are commonly called “ringtails” due to the presence of variably pale annuli on the middle abdominal segments. Males have a clubbed abdomen; females lack a true club, although some (e.g. *Erpetogomphus compositus* Hagen in Selys) may show a slight expansion on segments 8 and 9. Detailed revision of the genus by Garrison (1994) documented a largely Neotropical distribution of the 21 species then known (in 1999, this rose to 22 with the addition of *Erpetogomphus erici* Novelo-Gutiérrez and Garrison), ranging from the northwest and mid-Atlantic United States through Mexico and Central America to northwest South America. We describe *Erpetogomphus molossus*, a new species from the Sierra Madre Occidental in east-central Sonora. It is distinct in color pattern and, especially, in the configuration of the male appendages and secondary genitalia and in that of the female subgenital plate. A prior reference, as *Erpetogomphus* sp. nov., was made to this species in Upson *et al.*, p. 39. See Figures 1–2 for individuals photographed in the field.

Erpetogomphus molossus, new species

Etymology. The name *molossus* is intended both to continue the tradition in the naming of new species of *Erpetogomphus* after snakes and to refer to this particular new species’ most conspicuous field mark: its largely black, though ringed, abdomen. The small range of *Erpetogomphus molossus* is well within the much larger range of its namesake, *Crotalus molossus*, the black-tailed rattlesnake. The common name Black-tailed Ringtail is suggested.

Specimens examined. 3♂ 3♀. **Holotype** male from Rancho Trigo Colón, 10 km S Hwy 16, Km 296, Yécora Municipio, Sonora, Mexico, 1385 m (N 28°18.593’, W 108°47.503’; date 14-IX-08; leg. R. Bailowitz, D. Danforth & S. Upson. **Allotype** female from same locality by same collectors, 16-IX-04. **Paratypes** All from same locality and collectors, 1♂ 4-IX-05, and 1♀ 16-IX-04. Holotype and allotype in collection of Instituto Biológico de la Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City. Paratypes in Hasbrouck Insect Collection, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

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Literature cited

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