Establishment of the Microphorella breviradia species group, with a key to the Nearctic species groups of Microphorella Becker (Diptera: Dolichopodidae sensu lato: Parathalassiinae)

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Abstract

The Microphorella breviradia species group is established for three new species from western North America, namely Microphorella breviradia sp. nov., M. macdonaldi sp. nov. and M. vespera sp. nov., including an identification key to species. COI mitochondrial DNA barcode sequences were obtained for two of the three species and possibly suggest the existence of additional cryptic species. The phylogenetic relationships of the Microphorella breviradia species group to the remainder of the Microphorella species groups are reviewed on a worldwide basis. A key to the four known Nearctic species groups of Microphorella is also provided.

Key words: new species, identification keys, classification, morphology, DNA barcodes, phylogeny

Introduction

The empidoid subfamily Parathalassiinae is one of the basal lineages of the Dolichopodidae sensu lato, along with the Microphorinae (Sinclair & Cumming 2006). Worldwide the Parathalassiinae currently includes 51 described extant species in eight genera (Cumming & Brooks 2019). These genera were described as follows: Parathalassius Mik, 1891, Microphorella Becker, 1909, Thalassophorus Saigusa, 1986, Plesiothalassius Ulrich, 1991, Amphithalassius Ulrich, 1991, Chimerothalassius Shamshev & Grootaert, 2002, Eothalassius Shamshev & Grootaert, 2005 and Neothalassius Brooks & Cumming, 2016. The present generic concepts and phylogenetic relationships were analyzed morphologically by Cumming & Brooks (2019). Microphorella as currently recognized, was determined to be paraphyletic and polyphyletic and made up of at least 12 species groups worldwide. Cumming & Brooks (2019) indicated that four of these species groups, namely the Microphorella acroptera species group, the M. chillcotti species group, the M. chiragra species group and the “Microphorella short R1 species group”, occur in the Nearctic Region. We recognize Nearctic Microphorella on the basis of a wing with a reduced anal lobe, apically convex cell cua, a short to absent vein CuA+CuP and cell dm present, in combination with a head with a weakly developed gena, small short rounded or narrow palpus, and an arista-like stylus not lengthened (Brooks & Cumming 2011, 2012).

The purpose of this paper, the second in a series of papers revising the Nearctic species of Microphorella, is to describe and key the included species in the “Microphorella short R1 species group” (sensu Cumming & Brooks 2019) and formally describe the group. COI mitochondrial DNA barcode sequences are also analyzed for 74 specimens belonging to this species group. The relationship of the species group to the remainder of Microphorella is briefly reviewed on a worldwide basis. In addition, an illustrated key is provided to the four species groups of Microphorella that are present in the Nearctic Region.
Material and methods

This study is based on the examination of specimens that are deposited in the following institutions: California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, USA (CAS); Canadian National Collection of Insects, Ottawa, Canada (CNC); California State Collection of Arthropods, Sacramento, USA (CSCA); Lyman Entomological Museum, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Canada (LEMQ); Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California, Davis, USA (UCDC); United States National Museum of Natural History, Washington D.C., USA (USNM).

Label data for primary types are cited verbatim. Labels are listed from the top label down with data from each label in quotation marks and separated by a semicolon. Lines of text on labels are delimited by a slash (/) and annotations are placed in square brackets, i.e., [ ]. The distribution maps were created with SimpleMappr (Shorthouse 2010).

Terms used for adult structures follow Cumming & Wood (2017). Homologies of the male terminalia follow Brooks & Cumming (2017, 2018) and Brooks & Ulrich (2012). Male and female terminalia dissections were macerated in 85% lactic acid heated in a microwave oven for multiple 20–60 second intervals, until muscle tissue was dissolved, with terminalia subsequently examined and illustrated in glycerin on a depression slide. Figures of male genitalia in lateral view are oriented with the anatomically dorsal and ventral parts directed towards the top and bottom of the page, respectively. This means that the left and right side of the figures refer to each side prior to the rotation and twisting caused by lateroflexion (see Sinclair & Cumming 2006, p. 48).

To provide additional evidence for species identity, numerous specimens of Microphorella were submitted for DNA barcoding to the Biodiversity Institute of Ontario in Guelph, ON, Canada. A single leg was removed from each specimen to obtain mitochondrial DNA barcodes (658 base pairs from the 5´ end of COI). The DNA was extracted, amplified, purified and sequenced following the protocols given by Hajibabaei et al. (2005). Successful COI sequences were deposited in GenBank. COI sequences of >625 base pairs (bp) were analyzed with a Neighbour-joining tree (Fig. 24) created in the Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD) using the BOLD Aligner (Amino Acid based HMM) (Ratnasingham & Hebert 2007). For most sequenced specimens, species identities were confirmed by comparing COI sequences from males and females that clustered together with <2% genetic divergence (Hebert et al. 2003).

Systematics

Microphorella breviradia species group

Diagnosis. The Microphorella breviradia species group can be distinguished from other parathalassiines by the following suite of characters: wing with short R1 vein that terminates at or before midpoint of wing (Fig. 3); mouthparts with sensory pit on palpus; male abdominal sternite 5 with short broad ventral projection; hypopygium (Figs 4, 10, 11, 14, 19, 20, 21) with epandrium and hypandrium partially fused together, right epandrial lamella greatly enlarged and comprising most of hypopygium in right lateral view, hypandrium reduced to narrow subtriangular band positioned on left side of hypopygium; female abdomen (Figs 31, 32) with 7 exposed abdominal segments, telescoping terminalia retracted into segment 7, syntergite 9+10 with acanthophorous setae (Figs 16, 17), syntergite 9+10 and sternite 10 widely separated, cercus ovoid with long apical setae (Figs 16, 32). See Cumming & Brooks (2019) for additional parathalassiine features possessed by members of this species group.

Remarks. The Microphorella breviradia species group includes three new species from western North America (described below) that share a short R1 wing vein and a distinctively modified male hypopygium. The former feature is seen in some non-Nearctic parathalassiines (e.g., the Microphorella malaysiana species group, Neothalassius, Chimerothalassius, Eothalassius), but not in other known extant Nearctic species groups of Microphorella. There is a fossil species of Microphorella described from the middle Eocene Kishenehn Formation in northwestern Montana that may also belong to the M. breviradia species group (Greenwalt et al. 2022). Members of the species group are generally found along fast flowing rivers and streams (Figs 6–9). Cumming & Brooks (2019) referred to this lineage as the “Microphorella short R1 species group” in their phylogenetic analysis of relationships within the Parathalassiinae.
Key to males of the *Microphorella breviradia* species group

1. Head with face broad, nearly twice width of anterior ocellus at narrowest point (Fig. 5); fore tarsomere 5 with tuft of long dorsal setae .................................................. M. macdonaldi sp. nov.
   - Head with face narrow, about width of anterior ocellus at narrowest point (Fig. 2); fore tarsomere 5 with shorter dorsal setae .................................................. 2

2. Hypopygium with basiventral projection(s) on right dorsal surstyler lobe (Figs 11, 12, 13); phallus long and tubular, bearing very slender process medially (Fig. 10) ........................................ M. breviradia sp. nov.
   - Hypopygium without basiventral projections on right dorsal surstyler lobe (Fig. 20); phallus stout and bifid, bearing thick process ventrally (Fig. 19) ........................................ M. vespera sp. nov.

*Microphorella breviradia* sp. nov.
(Figs 1–4, 6, 10–18, 22, 31, 32)
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:586BABF9-B7D3-4B6B-8520-DD789B48DC44

**Type material. HOLOTYPE** ♂ labelled: “USA:CA: El Dorado Co./ South Fork American River/ Eagle Rock river access/ N38°46ʹ34.6ʺ W120°16ʹ00.7ʺ/ 18.vii.2012, J.M. Cumming”; “CNC487253 [printed on both sides]”; “Legs removed/ for DNA/ analysis [green label]”; “HOLOTYPE/ Microphorella breviradia/ Cumming & Brooks [red label]” (CNC). **PARATYPES: USA: California:** Same data as holotype except, CNC487205, CNC487212, CNC487213, CNC487217, CNC487220, CNC487225, CNC487226, CNC487229, CNC487230, CNC487231, CNC487232, CNC487234, CNC487235, CNC487236, CNC487237, CNC487238, CNC487255, CNC487256 (14♂, 4♀, CNC); same data except, S.E. Brooks, CNC DIPTERA # 192164, CNC DIPTERA # 192165, CNC DIPTERA # 192166, CNC DIPTERA # 192167, CNC DIPTERA # 192168, CNC DIPTERA # 192169, CNC DIPTERA # 192170, CNC DIPTERA # 192171, CNC DIPTERA # 192172, CNC DIPTERA # 192173, CNC DIPTERA # 192174, CNC DIPTERA # 192175, CNC DIPTERA # 192176, CNC DIPTERA # 192177, CNC DIPTERA # 192178, CNC DIPTERA # 192179, CNC DIPTERA # 192180, CNC487206, CNC487210, CNC487211, CNC487214, CNC487215, CNC487216, CNC487218, CNC487222, CNC487224, CNC487228, CNC487239, CNC487241, CNC487242, CNC487243, CNC487244, CNC487245, CNC487246, CNC487247, CNC487249, CNC487251, CNC487252, CNC487254, CNC487271, CNC487272, CNC487274, CNC487275, CNC487276, CNC487277, CNC487278, CNC487279, CNC487280 (34♂, 14♀, CNC).

**Other material examined. MEXICO: Baja California:** Sierra San Pedro Martir NP [ca 31°00ʹN 115°33ʹW], 17 km E park entrance, 2900 m, 7.ix.1980, D.D. Wilder (2♂, 11♀, CAS); same data except, La Grulla, 6900 ft, 12.vi.1953, P.H. Arnaud, Jr (3♂, 3♀, CAS); same data except, Rancho Viejo, 7000 ft, 13.vi.1953 (2♂, 1♀, CAS); same data except, 14.vi.1953 (1♂, CAS). **USA: California:** Alpine County: along Disaster Creek [ca 38°26ʹN 119°45ʹW], T7N R20E Sec. 26, 11.vii.1977, D.D. Wilder (15♂, 1♀, CAS); same data except, 11.vii.1977 (3♂, CAS); along Little Teton Creek [ca 38°22ʹN 119°49ʹW], T6N R19E Sec. 12, 12.vii.1977, D. Wilder (22♂, 16♀, CAS); El Dorado County: same data as holotype (176♂, 87♀, CNC); same data except, S.E. Brooks (203♂, 102♀, CNC); same data except, Eagle Rock Picnic Area, 38°46.58ʹN 120°16.01ʹW, 1384 m, sweep, 14.viii.1999, J. Savage (1♂, LEMQ); Fresno County: Sierra NF, along Pitman Crk, nr Big Crk [ca 37°12ʹN 119°13ʹW], 1500 m, T8SR25E Sec. 28, 2.viii.1979, D.D. Wilder (44♂, 63♀, CAS); Huntington Lake, Bolsillo Crk [ca 37°19ʹN 119°02ʹW], 10.vii.1984, J.F. MacDonald (1♂, CNC); Madera County: Chiquito Crk 0.25 mi. below Upper Chiquito Campground [ca 37°30ʹN 119°24ʹW], 6820 ft, 11.vii.1971, H.B. Leech (1♂, CAS); Mariposa County: Summerdale Forest Camp, on Big Creek [ca 37°29ʹN 119°38ʹW], 1520 m, 27.vi.1973, P.H. Arnaud, Jr (1♂, USNM); Mono County: Leavitt Meadows [ca 38°19ʹN 119°38ʹW], 25–27.vi.1968, P.H. Arnaud, Jr (3♂, 3♀, USNM); same data except, 12.vii.1977, D.D. Wilder (1♂, 1♀, CAS); same data except, 13.vii.1977, D.D. Wilder (1♂, 1♀, CAS); same data except, 14.vi.1977, D.D. Wilder (1♂, 1♀, CAS); same data except, 15.vii.1977, D.D. Wilder (1♂, 1♀, CAS).
Description. Males of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. are distinguished from those of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov. by the following combination of features: narrow face (Fig. 2); right dorsal surstylar lobe with basiventral projection(s) (Figs 11, 12, 13); phallus long, tubular and C-shaped (Fig. 10). Males of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. are morphologically variable (see “Remarks”), compared to the known material of the other two species, and some specimens can be further distinguished by the following features: hind femur with ventral setae up to 2X femur width; hind tibia with short erect setae on anterior and ventral surfaces; right epandrial lamella elongated with anterior end subconical and strongly projected (Fig. 13). Females of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. appear to be indistinguishable from those of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov.

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Problematic material examined. USA: California: San Bernardino County: 2.6 mi E of Seven Oaks, Santa Ana R., 34°11’0.1”N 116°52’12.1”W, 1770 m, 11.vii.2016, J.M. Cumming, CNC576977 (1♂, CNC), see “Remarks”; same data except, S.E. Brooks, CNC574674 (1♂, CNC, see “Remarks”); same data except, 11–12.vi.2016, YPT, Cumming & Brooks, CNC576726 (1♂, CNC).

Males of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. are distinguished from those of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov. by the following combination of features: narrow face (Fig. 2); right dorsal surstylar lobe with basiventral projection(s) (Figs 11, 12, 13); phallus long, tubular and C-shaped (Fig. 10). Males of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. are morphologically variable (see “Remarks”), compared to the known material of the other two species, and some specimens can be further distinguished by the following features: hind femur with ventral setae up to 2X femur width; hind tibia with short erect setae on anterior and ventral surfaces; right epandrial lamella elongated with anterior end subconical and strongly projected (Fig. 13). Females of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. appear to be indistinguishable from those of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov.
wide. Acrostichal setae biserial, short, sometimes sparse, not extended onto prescutellar depression; other thoracic setae well differentiated, each side of mesonotum with: 6 dorsocentrals (posteriormost seta stronger), 1 strong presutural supra-alar (posthumeral), 3 postsutural supra-alar, sparse acrostichal-sized setae intermixed with supra-alar, 2 strong notopleural, 1 strong postalar. Scutellum broadly subtriangular with one strong seta per side. Mesopleuron bare. Halter pale brown. Legs (Fig. 1): Coxae dark brown to dark grey-brown and mainly concolorous with thorax; femora dark brown to dark grey-brown; trochanters, tibiae and tarsi dark brown; coxae with pale setae; trochanters, femora, tibiae and tarsi with brown to pale brown setae; setae of femora, tibiae and tarsi short, except hind femur with series of long ventral setae; tarsal claws, pulvilli and empodium normally developed on all legs. Foreleg: Coxa with anterior surface setose, apical setae longer; femur subequal in length to tibia; tibia with apical comb-like row of short setae on anterior surface; tarsus subequal in length to tibia; tarsomere 1 subequal to combined length of tarsomeres 2–4; tarsomeres 2–4 decreasing in length apically; tarsomere 5 somewhat enlarged, subequal to combined length of tarsomeres 3 and 4, broad, with short dorsal setae. Midleg: Coxa with 2 anterolateral setae and a few anterior setae along apical margin; femur subequal in length to tibia; tibia with relatively strong anterocapital setae; tarsus slightly to distinctly shorter than tibia, tarsomere 1 subequal to combined length of tarsomeres 2–5; tarsomeres 2–4 decreasing in length apically; tarsomere 5 slightly shorter than tarsomere 2. Hindleg: Coxa with 2 setae on lateral surface; femur slightly longer than tibia, with series of long pale to light brown ventral setae (longest setae up to 2X femur width in some specimens); tibia often slightly bowed outwardly, some specimens also with erect setae on anterior and ventral surfaces, with apical comb-like row of closely-spaced setae on posterior surface; tarsus distinctly shorter than tibia (about 0.6–0.7X tibia length); tarsomere 1 subequal to combined length of tarsomeres 2–4, tarsomere 2–4 gradually decreasing in length apically, tarsomere 5 subequal in length to tarsomere 3. Wing (Fig. 3): With brownish tinge, veins dark brown, about 2.4X longer than wide. Pterostigma absent, membrane entirely covered with minute microtrichia, alula absent. Costa circumambient. Extreme anterior base of costa with strong anterodorsal seta. Anterior section of costa (between base and R1) bearing double row of spine-like setae, setae of ventral row stronger. Posterior section of costa (i.e. beyond R5) with setae finer and longer. Longitudinal veins complete, reaching wing margin, except CuA+CuP (analog vein) extending half-way to wing margin, Sc faint apically. R1 short, terminating before midpoint of wing. Base of Rs originating opposite humeral crossvein. R2+3 subparallel with R1 in basal 1/3, straight and parallel with R4+5 in distal part. R4+5 straight. M1 nearly straight with gentle posterior curve apically. M2 and M3 longer than costal section between M1 and M4, CuA rounded. Short r-m crossvein present in basal portion of wing, distal to base of R4+5. Crosseine bm-m incomplete. Cell dm present, closed by base of M2 and dm-m crossvein, cell extending to middle of wing. Cells br, bm and ca in basal fourth of wing. Cells bm and ca broader than br. Cell cua closed, ovoid. Anal lobe not developed. Calypters with fine pale setae. Abdomen (Figs 1, 4, 10–15): Dark brown with grey tinge. Abdominal plaques usually visible on lateral margins of tergites and sternites 2–4; tergite 2 with transverse band of plaques visible anteriorly. Tergites 1–6 and sternites 2–5 with short setae along posterior surface (setae thin on sternite 5), otherwise mostly bare, sternite 6 bare. Segment 7 bare. Segment 1 reduced and very short; segments 2–4 mostly symmetrical with simple tergites and sternites, segment 2 relatively long; segments 5–7 narrowed and laterally compressed to form cavity on right side for hypopygium. Sternite 5 with short broad ventral projection. Segment 7 tubular. Sternite 8 round and setose, forming dome-like cap over anterodorsal region of hypopygium (Fig. 14); tergite 8 narrow, U-shaped. Hypopygium (Figs 4, 10–15): Mainly dark brown. Lateroflexed to right, inverted with posterior end directed anteriorly, 1/3–1/2 length of abdomen, asymmetrical, foramen not formed. Epyandrium divided into separate left and right lamellae. Left epandrial lamella (Fig. 10) trifurcate with surstylus lobes and ventral epandrial process projecting posteriorly, ventral edge fused with hypandrium but margin distinct. Left ventral epandrial process present, articulated at base, elongate, broadened in middle portion, narrowed apically with acute hooked apex, dorsal margin with pair of small setae near mid-length. Left surstylus bilobed with dorsal and ventral lobes separated by deep U-shaped cleft through which the left postgonite lobe protrudes (Fig. 10). Dorsal lobe of left surstylus large and broad (covering base of cercus), dorsal edge with concave basal emargination (Fig. 14) and rounded subapical protrusion bordering lateroventral margin of left cercus, apical margin rounded with several strong setae (Fig. 10), lacking prensiseta. Ventral lobe of left surstylus narrow, as long as dorsal lobe, with long apical seta and small seta below. Right epandrial lamella (Figs 4, 11–14) greatly enlarged, bowl-shaped, relatively short to elongate (compare Figs 11–13), comprising most of hypopygium in right lateral view; dorsal edge with broad concave emargination bordering lateroventral margin of right cercus; anterior end broadly rounded and weakly projected to subconical and strongly projected (compare Figs 11–13);
posterior end with large dorsal surstylar lobe, small ventral surstylar lobe and ventral conical projection; fused with hypandrium along left margin (Fig. 10). Right ventral epandrial process absent. Right surstylus bilobed with dorsal and ventral lobes separated by cleft through which right postgonite lobe protrudes (Fig. 11). Dorsal lobe of right surstylus large and overlapping ventral lobe, dorsoapical margin rounded to broadly pointed with 3 strong submarginal setae, ventral margin with 1 or 2 basiventral projections and 3 strong marginal setae, lacking prensiseta. Ventral lobe of right surstylus short and broad, with a few marginal setae, mostly covered by dorsal lobe of surstylus. Hypandrium (Fig. 10) reduced to narrow subtriangular band, only visible from left side of hypopygium, with 2 tiny setae near apex. Postgonite with basal internal portion cradling base of phallus and ejaculatory apodeme; left and right postgonite lobes asymmetrical, protruding out from between dorsal and ventral lobes of surstylus. Left postgonite lobe (Fig. 10) narrow and strap-like, apex with narrow dorsal projection bearing a few small setae. Right postgonite lobe (Figs 10, 11, 14) large with expanded complex trilobate apex, bearing prominent thick seta near base of apical lobes. Phallus (Fig. 10) long and tubular, C-shaped, with very slender process medially on right side. Ejaculatory apodeme short and keel-like. Hypoproct (Figs 11, 14) projected as a pair of short asymmetrical lobes directly below cerci, left lobe short and globular with apical setae, right lobe longer and digitiform with apical setae. Cerci (Figs 11, 14, 15) asymmetrical; left cercus broad basally bearing 1 strong seta, with lateroventral margin fitting into dorsal concavity at base of dorsal surstylar lobe, distal portion narrowed and bent laterally, apex compressed laterally and rounded with pair of strong setae; right cercus broad basally bearing 1 strong seta, with lateroventral margin fitting into dorsal concavity near base of dorsal surstylar lobe, evenly tapered distally, with apex narrow (Fig. 14) or expanded and truncate (Fig. 15).

Female (Figs 16–18, 31, 32): Body length 1.19–1.67 mm, wing length 1.36–1.67 mm. Similar to male except as follows: Head: Face broader, nearly twice width of anterior ocellus at narrowest point in middle. Legs: Foreleg: Tarsomere 5 smaller with fewer dorsal setae. Midleg: Tarsus subequal in length to tibia. Hindleg: Femur with short indistinct setae ventrally; tibia straight, without erect setae; tarsus slightly shorter than tibia. Abdomen (Figs 31, 32): Tapering posteriorly, apical segments retractable into segment 7. Terminalia (Figs 16–18): Tergite 7 U-shaped and mostly desclerotized medially, with setae posteriorly, sternite 7 weakly sclerotized with setae posteriorly; tergite 8 medially divided, narrowly fused with sternite 8 anterolaterally; syntergite 9+10 medially divided into subrectangular hemiterges, with three acanthophorite setae on each side, widely separated from sternite 10; sternite 10 desclerotized medially; cercus ovoid with several rather long setae, apical seta longest; spermathecal duct unsclerotized, with broad, ridged sperm pump in basal part and textured spherical terminal expansion.

Distribution. This new species is known from northern California, USA south to Baja California, Mexico (Fig. 22).

Etymology. The species name refers to the short R₁ wing vein in both males and females, a feature shared by all three members of the M. breviradia species group.

Remarks. DNA barcode sequences were obtained and analyzed for 67 specimens (both males and females) of M. breviradia (Fig. 24). All were from the type locality of Eagle Rock, American River in central California (Figs 6, 7) and all clustered together with less than 2% genetic divergence from each other. However, these specimens, particularly males, exhibit considerable morphological variation in overall body size, width of the head, length of ventral setae on the hind femur, chaetotaxy of the hind tibia, and in the shape of the right epandrial lamella. This entire M. breviradia cluster appears to represent a morphologically variable species, which remains genetically separate from the M. vespera cluster (M. macdonaldi was not sequenced, see below). Two additional male specimens from Seven Oaks, southern California (CNC576977, CNC574674) that are sympatric (Figs 22, 23) and morphologically similar to M. breviradia, did not cluster with either M. breviradia or M. vespera, indicating that more sampling and sequencing is required to resolve whether these specimens should be included in this variable species concept or represent additional new cryptic species.

Microphorella macdonaldi sp. nov.
(Figs 5, 23)
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:07E499E7-A2B0-4A7F-A129-9F3B486D583F

as holotype (1♀, CNC); same data as holotype except, Rancheria C., 2600m, 20.viii.1984 (1♀, CNC); same data as holotype except, Midge C., 2200m, 13.viii.1984 (1♀, CNC); Bolsillo Creek at Bolsillo Campground, SW of Mono Hot Springs, 2270 m, 8.viii.1975, Paul H. Arnaud, Jr. (1♂, 2♀, CAS); Madera County: Chiquito Creek, 0.25 mi below Upper Chiquito Campground, 6820 ft, 11.viii.1971, Hugh B. Leech (2♂, CAS).

FIGURES 1–5. *Microphorella breviradia* sp. nov. and *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. (males). 1. Habitus of *M. breviradia* sp. nov., left lateral view. 2. Head of *M. breviradia* sp. nov., anterior view (CNC487231). 3. Wing of *M. breviradia* sp. nov., anterior view (CNC487241). 4. Abdomen of *M. breviradia* sp. nov., right lateral view (CNC1155716). 5. Head of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov., anterior view (holotype). Abbreviations: bm-m—basal medial crossvein; cua—anterior cubital (=anal) cell; CuA+CuP—anterior branch of cubital vein + posterior branch of cubital vein; dm—discal medial cell; dm-m—discal medial crossvein; epand—epandrium; h—humeral crossvein; M₁, M₂, M₄—medial veins; (R)—right; R₁, R₂+₃, R₄+₅—radial veins; Sc—subcostal vein; v epand proc—ventral epandrial process.
Diagnosis. Males of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. are distinguished by their broad face (Fig. 5) and long dorsal setae on fore tarsomere 5, in contrast to males of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov., which both have a narrow face (as in Fig. 2) and shorter dorsal setae on fore tarsomere 5. The hypopygial morphology of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. is similar to some specimens of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. (see Figs 10, 11). Females of *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. appear to be indistinguishable from those of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. and *M. vespera* sp. nov.

Description. Male (Fig. 5): Body length 1.40–1.43 mm, wing length 1.67–1.78 mm. Similar to *M. breviradia* sp. nov. except as follows: Head (Fig. 5): Slightly broader than high in anterior view, not wider in occasional specimens. Face broader, nearly twice width of anterior ocellus at narrowest point in middle. Antenna with postpedicel slightly shorter, about 2X longer than wide, conical and gradually tapered distally; arista-like stylus slightly longer, about 2X length of postpedicel. Thorax: Dorsum and pleura with brighter metallic blue-grey coloration, dorsum with reduced greenish-bronze region posteriorly. Legs: Femora and tibiae dark grey-brown. Foreleg: Tarsomere 5 slightly larger, with tuft of longer dorsal setae. Hindleg: Femur with series of ventral setae, as long as femur width; tibia straight, without erect setae; tarsus slightly shorter than tibia (>0.7X tibia length). Abdomen: Dark brown with bluish grey tinge. Hypopygium: Right epandrial lamella with anterior end slightly projected. Dorsal lobe of right surstylus with 2 basiventral projections and 3 strong marginal setae on ventral margin (similar to Fig. 11). Right cercus with apex narrow (similar to Fig. 14).

Female: Body length 1.38–1.49 mm, wing length 1.73–1.79 mm. Similar to male except as follows: Head: Face more linear, not narrowed in middle. Thorax: Dorsum mostly dull greenish-bronze. Legs: Foreleg: Tarsomere 5 smaller with fewer dorsal setae. Hindleg: Femur with short indistinct setae ventrally. Abdomen: Similar to *M. breviradia* sp. nov.

Distribution. This new species is known from the Sierra Nevada Mountains in central California, USA (Fig. 23).

**Etymology.** This species is named after the late John F. MacDonald of Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. John was primarily a specialist on Hemerodromiinae, who collected many other valuable Empidoidea, including much of the type series of this new species. His empidoid collection now resides in the CNC.

**Remarks.** No barcode sequences were obtained from the small number of specimens known for this species. The width of the male face in *M. macdonaldi* is relatively broad compared with the narrower face of males of *M. breviradia* or *M. vespera*, resembling the wider face found in *M. breviradia* species group females. Although a broader face is one of the demasculinization features described by Runyon (2022) for nematode infected Dolichopodidae, it does not appear to be the case for males of *M. macdonaldi*, which show no signs of nematode infection.
Microphorella vespera sp. nov.
(Figs 19–21, 23)
urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:A769BA44-14E6-4FEA-B0A0-536992476C23

Type material. HOLOTYPE ♂ labelled: “USA: CA: Del Norte Co./ West Fork of Patrick Crk./ N41°55ʹ03ʺ W123°51ʹ28ʺ/ 3.VI.2009, S.E. Brooks”; “HOLOTYPE/ Microphorella vespera/ Cumming & Brooks” [red label] (CNC). PARATYPES: USA: California: Same data as holotype (2♂, 2♀, CNC); same data as holotype except,

FIGURES 19–21. Hypopygium of Microphorella vespera sp. nov. (CNC DIPTERA # 105212). 19. Hypopygium, left lateral view. 20. Hypopygium, right lateral view. 21. Hypopygium and sternite 8, dorsal view. Abbreviations: cerc—cercus; d sur—dorsal lobe of surstylus; epand—epandrium; hypd—hypandrium; hyprct—hypoproct; (L)—left; pgt lb—postgonite lobe; ph—phallus; (R)—right; v epand proc—ventral epandrial process; v sur—ventral lobe of surstylus.
J.M. Cumming (1♂, CNC); same data as holotype except, J.M. Cumming, CNC DIPTERA 105212, 105214 (2♂, CNC); same data as holotype except, 31.v.2009, J.M. Cumming (1♂, 1♀, CNC); same data as holotype except, 31.v–3.vi.2009, YPT, J.M. Cumming & S.E. Brooks (2♂, 1♀, CNC); ca 6.5 mi NE Gasquet nr Cold Spring Mountain, N41°52′15″ W123°53′21″, S.E. Brooks, CNC DIPTERA 105257 (1♀, CNC); same data except, J.M. Cumming, CNC DIPTERA 105213 (1♂, CNC). Oregon: Benton County: North Fork Alsea R., nr. fish hatchery, N44°25′14.0″ W123°33′47.8″, 115 m, 5.vii.2014, S.E. Brooks, CNC 487208 (1♀, CNC, see “Remarks”).

**Diagnosis.** Males of *M. vespera* sp. nov. are distinguished from those of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. and *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov. by the following combination of features: narrow face (similar to Fig. 2); right dorsal surstylar lobe without basiventral projection(s) (Fig. 20); phallus short, stout and bifid (Fig. 19). Females of *M. vespera* sp. nov. appear to be indistinguishable from those of *M. breviradia* sp. nov. and *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov.

**FIGURES 22–23.** Known geographical distribution of the *Microphorella breviradia* species group. 22. *M. breviradia* sp. nov. 23. *M. macdonaldi* sp. nov., *M. vespera* sp. nov. and specimens from Seven Oaks, California (see “Remarks” in text under *M. breviradia* sp. nov.).
FIGURE 24. Neighbour-joining tree of 74 specimens of the *M. breviradia* species group and three outgroup specimens, including unique voucher number, sequence length, geographic locality and GenBank number.

Description. Male (Figs 19–21): Body length 1.25–1.57 mm, wing length 1.38–1.41 mm. Similar to *M. breviradia* sp. nov. except as follows: Head: Slightly broader than high in anterior view, not wider in occasional specimens. Antenna with postpedicel conical and gradually tapered distally; arista-like stylus slightly shorter, 0.8–1.1X length of postpedicel. Thorax: Usually 6 dorsocentrals (one male paratype apparently with 5). Legs: Midleg: Tarsus subequal in length to tibia. Hindleg: Femur with series of ventral setae at most as long as femur width; tibia straight, without erect setae; tarsus slightly shorter than tibia (>0.7X tibia length). Wing: R₁ terminating near midpoint of wing. Abdomen: Hypopygium (Figs 19–21): Left ventral epandrial process narrowed preapically with apex expanded and rounded, dorsal margin with pair of small setae in basal half. Right epandrial lamella with anterior end broadly rounded and weakly projected; posterior end with broad ventral conical projection. Dorsal lobe of
right surstylus with dorsoapical margin broadly pointed with several strong marginal setae, ventral margin broadly rounded, without basiventral projections. Left postgonite lobe narrow basally, apical half enlarged with broad dorsal projection bearing a few small setae. Phallus stout and bifid, bearing thick process ventrally. Hypoproct with left lobe expanded basally, both lobes with apical setae. Left cercus slightly broadened basally, distal portion strongly bent laterally and wrinkled, apex compressed laterally and subrectangular. Right cercus with apex slightly expanded and broadly rounded.

**Female:** Body length 1.23–1.35 mm, wing length 1.32–1.54 mm. Similar to male except as follows: **Head:** Face broader, nearly twice width of anterior ocellus at narrowest point in middle. **Legs:** Hindleg: Femur with short indistinct setae ventrally. **Abdomen:** Similar to *M. breviradia* sp. nov.

**Distribution.** This new species is known from the Coast Range of central Oregon and northern California, USA (Fig. 23).

**Etymology.** From the Latin word *vesper* meaning west, in reference to the western Nearctic distribution of this species.

**Remarks.** One female specimen (CNC487208) from Alsea River in Oregon, which appears morphologically identical to other specimens of *M. vespera*, yielded a barcode sequence with slightly greater than 2% genetic divergence (i.e., 2.67%) from the remainder of the *M. vespera* barcode cluster that contained both males and females from northern California (Fig. 24). Although the reason for this increase in genetic divergence is unknown, it could be due to factors such as differences in initial specimen preservation, or a lack of sampling and sequencing of specimens between both the California and Oregon geographic localities.

**FIGURES 31–36.** Female abdomens of the *Microphorella breviradia, Microphorella chiragra* and *Microphorella acroptera* species groups. **31.** *M. breviradia* sp. nov., left lateral view. **32.** *M. breviradia* sp. nov., dorsal view. **33.** *Microphorella* sp. 1 (*M. chiragra* species group), left lateral view. **34.** *Microphorella* sp. 1 (*M. chiragra* species group), dorsal view. **35.** *Microphorella* sp. 8 (*M. acroptera* species group), left lateral view. **36.** *Microphorella* sp. 8 (*M. acroptera* species group), dorsal view. Abbreviation: tg—tergite.

### Key to the species groups of *Microphorella* in the Nearctic Region

1 Wing with R$_1$ vein short, terminating at or before midpoint of wing (Fig. 3); female syntergite 9+10 with acanthophorous setae (Figs 16, 17, 31, 32); male terminalia with right epandrial lamella greatly enlarged and comprising most of hypopygium in right lateral view (Figs 4, 11, 20), hypandrium reduced to narrow subtriangular band, only visible from left side of hypopygium (Figs...
The *M. breviradia* species group is distinguished by several characters, including uniquely modified synapomorphic male terminalia with a greatly enlarged right epandrial lamella in conjunction with a narrow reduced hypandrium positioned on left side of hypopygium. Most of the remaining diagnostic characters also occur elsewhere within the Parathalassiinae. Some of these features, such as a short R₃ vein and a hypopygium with the epandrium and hypandrium partially fused together, are generally not found in groups that are currently classified within *Microphorella* (except the *M. malaysiana* species group, see Shamsheev & Grootaert 2004). In the phylogenetic analysis of the Parathalassiinae by Cumming & Brooks (2019), *Microphorella* was determined to be both paraphyletic and polyphyletic, and made up of at least 12 species groups worldwide. Also, there was no evidence in their analysis that the four Nearctic species groups of *Microphorella* form a single monophyletic group. The *M. breviradia* species group (as the “*Microphorella* short *R₃ species group”) was found to be more distantly related to various groups of *Microphorella* than to some other groups of Parathalassiinae (e.g., *Eothalassius*). However, the relationships presented by Cumming & Brooks (2019) were only partially resolved and each of the *Microphorella* species groups analyzed were left within *Microphorella* in their preliminary classification. Decisions on eventual ranking of the *M. breviradia* species group and other species groups of *Microphorella*, either as separate genera or possible subgenera within *Microphorella*, should wait as stated by Cumming & Brooks (2019), for discovery of additional morphological and molecular evidence on phylogenetic relationships within the Parathalassiinae.

The included species in the *M. breviradia* species group are generally restricted to fast flowing rivers and streams in western North America. Fast flowing rivers and streams are poorly collected habitats for small flies throughout this region, and given the huge number of unsampled localities it can be expected that further new species await discovery. Future description of any additional species diversity will test the definition of the *M. breviradia* species group and all the included species concepts described herein.

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