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Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Death Valley, California

Roland H. Wauer

U.S. National Park Service, Zion National Park, Utah

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Abdomen yellowed, tergites trivittate with dark brown, the stripes narrowly interrupted by pale posterior borders, lateral margins broadly pale; outer segments, including the large hypopygium, darker brownish yellow. Male hypopygium with the tergite transverse, lateral lobes irregularly rounded, only slightly produced, median region completely divided. Ninth sternite on either side conspicuously produced into a fingerlike lobe, broad-based, bent inwardly; a further more ventral elongate lobe, its outer margin and apex with abundant short yellow setae. Outer dististyle a small oval blade on margin of the large inner style, this with the beak short-triangular; outer basal lobe narrowed into a fingerlike pale lobule. Phallosome symmetrical, the gonapophyses moderately large, spinelike, darkened, gradually narrowed into acute points. Eighth sternite large and sheathing, outer angles each with a single powerful fasciculate bristle; median region of emargination with a depressed-flattened pale plate, its outer margin produced into two divergent blades, separated by a U-shaped notch.

HABITAT. Oregon (Harney County).

HOLOTYPE, ♂, Fish Lake Steens Mountains, 7,200 feet. July 14, 1962 (James Baker).

This interesting fly was taken by my long time friend James Baker, of Baker, Oregon, to whom I am indebted for many Tipulidae over the past several years. Other regional members of the *unicincta* group that have the tergal lobes only slightly produced include *Tipula* (*Lunatipula*) *mormon* Alexander and *T. (L.) rabiosa* Alexander, both of which have the hypopygial structure quite different, especially in the lack of the long fingerlike lobes of the ninth sternite as found in the present fly. Other species of *Tipula* with somewhat comparable elongate digitiform lobes have these on the basistyle rather than on the ninth sternite.

NOTE

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN DEATH VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

On May 3, 1962, the writer observed and collected a male scissor-tailed flycatcher *Muscivora forticata* at Furnace Creek Ranch in Death Valley, Inyo County, California. It was observed "fly-catching" among the mesquite growth which surrounds the "Ranch." This species increases the avian population of the below-sea-level region of Death Valley to 233 species (Wauer, Condor, 64:220-233). It is also the northeastern most record for the species in California and the first for the western portion of the Great Basin; along the eastern edge of the Sierra Nevada.

Roland H. Wauer, Zion National Park, March 20, 1963.