

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

SYNOPSIS OF THE GENUS *PROBEZZIA*, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES.  
(DIPTERA.)

BY J. R. MALLOCH.

[Published by permission of the State Entomologist of Illinois.]

The following table includes all the described North American species of the genus *Probezzia*, and is presented with a view to assisting students of Diptera in identifying their specimens. The genus belongs to the family Chironomidae, subfamily Ceratopogoninae, and is distinguished from *Bezzia* by the absence of femoral spines.

1. Apex of wing brown, third vein reaching to almost nine-tenths of the wing length . . . . . *terminalis* Coquillett.  
Apex of wing clear . . . . . 2
2. Yellow or whitish species . . . . . 3  
Thorax and generally the abdomen black, the former often covered with pale pruinescence . . . . . 4
3. Pale yellow, almost white, species, only the last tarsal joint black; media sessile . . . . . *pallida*, n. sp.  
Yellow species; abdomen with brown fasciae on the bases of dorsal and black fasciae on apices of ventral segments; legs yellow, apices of hind femora, bases of hind tibiae, and apices of all tibiae and of all tarsal joints blackened; media petiolate . *elegantula* Johannsen.
4. Scutellum yellow . . . . . 5  
Scutellum concolorous with disc of mesonotum . . . . . 7
5. Large species, 3.75 mm.; media forks proximad of the cross vein . . . . . *pachymerus* Williston.  
Smaller species, 2.5 mm. or less; media forks at or beyond the cross vein . . . . . 6
6. Small species, 1 mm.; fifth tarsal joint of hind legs 3 times as long as fourth; media forks slightly beyond the cross vein . . . . . *inermis* Coquillett.  
Larger species, 2 mm.; fifth tarsal joint of hind legs about twice as long as fourth; media forks at cross vein . . . . . *glaber* Coquillett.



7. Fifth joint of hind tarsus spinose ventrally . . . . . 8  
Fifth joint of hind tarsus unspined . . . . . 10
8. Knob of halteres black, stalk yellow; abdomen white; legs black,  
the basal joint of tarsi white . . . . . *albiventris* Loew.  
Knob of halteres yellow or white . . . . . 9
9. Eyes widely separated; legs whitish, blackened on apical half of  
femora, apices of hind tibiae, and apices of all tarsal joints  
*elegans* Coquillett.  
Eyes almost contiguous; legs black, yellow on apices of coxæ, tro-  
chanters, and bases of femora; basal 4 joints of tarsi whitish  
*smithi* Coquillett.
10. Mesonotum opaque, fuscous . . . . . *opaca* Loew.  
Mesonotum glossy black . . . . . 11
11. Mesonotum with 2 whitish, pruinose vittæ . . . *bivittata* Coquillett.  
Mesonotum unstriped . . . . . 12
12. Abdomen yellow on basal half; legs chiefly yellow; apex of first vein  
not before middle of third vein . . . . . *flavonigra* Coquillett.  
Abdomen wholly black; legs chiefly black; apex of first vein dis-  
tinctly before middle of third vein . . . . . *gibber* Coquillett.

It will be necessary to use this table with a certain degree of caution, particularly in the character of the presence or absence of spines on the ventral surface of the last tarsal joint. I have found it to be a rule that where the female has no ventral spines on this joint they are absent in the male also; but the presence of spines on the last joint of the female tarsus is not an infallible indication of their presence in the male.

### ***Probezzia pallida* n. sp.**

*Female*.—Whitish yellow; apical half of antennæ brownish; disc of postnotum slightly infuscated; last tarsal joint of all legs and tarsal claws black; inner side of hind tibiae at apices with a black comb. Wings clear, veins yellow. Halteres pale yellow. Hairs on body and legs whitish.

Eyes narrowly separated; basal joint of antennæ small, globose; joints of flagellum elongated, the apical five noticeably longer than the others, the entire length of antenna one and a half times that of head and thorax combined, antennal hairs short; proboscis shorter than height of head. Mesonotum with sparse short setulose hairs arranged serially on the spaces between the areas generally occupied by the thoracic vittæ in other Chironomidæ; scutellum with scattered setulose hairs, which are not confined to the margin. Abdomen slender, its length slightly exceeding that of head and thorax combined; surface almost devoid of hairs. Legs slender; femora and tibiae with weak hairs, those on the hind tibiae strongest; basal joint of hind tarsus as long as the next four together, exclusive of the claws, fourth joint very short, fifth as long as 3 + 4, its ventral surface with two rows of rather long spines; tarsal claws about equal in length to fifth joint, subequal on all legs, each with a long sub-

basal tooth. Third vein extends almost to apex of wing; media forks proximad of the cross vein, base of lower branch subobsolete.

Length, 2.5 mm.

*Type locality.*—Muncie, Illinois, May 24, 1914 (C. A. Hart and J. R. Malloch). Paratypes: Monticello, Illinois, June 21, 1914 (J. R. Malloch). In collection Illinois State Laboratory of Natural History.

None of the species have been described in the immature stages, and the habits of the adults are unrecorded. The writer has taken several species by sweeping vegetation adjacent to streams at the two localities above mentioned.



Malloch, John Russell. 1914. "Synopsis of the genus *Probezzia*, with description of a new species (Diptera)." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 27, 137–139.

**View This Item Online:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/245864>

**Permalink:** <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/32405>

**Holding Institution**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

**Sponsored by**

Harvard University, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Ernst Mayr Library

**Copyright & Reuse**

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.