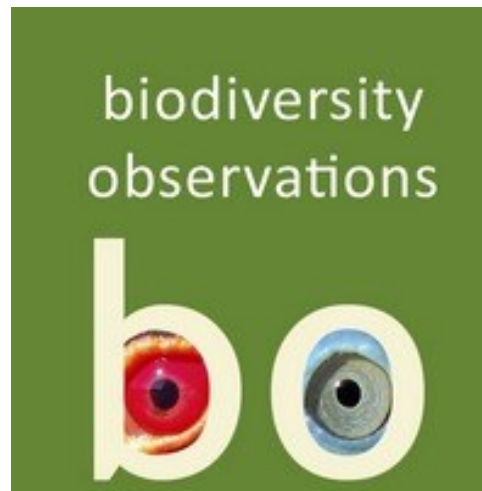


A tachinid fly, *Archytas (Archytas) nonamensis* (Diptera: Tachinidae), collected in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap

Lawrence J. Hribar



Hribar LJ 2026. A tachinid fly, *Archytas (Archytas) nonamensis* (Diptera: Tachinidae), collected in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap. Biodiversity Observations 16: 75–76.

16 June 2026

DOI: [10.15641/bo.1805](https://doi.org/10.15641/bo.1805)

ENTOMOLOGY

A tachinid fly, *Archytas (Archytas) nonamensis* (Diptera: Tachinidae), collected in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap

Lawrence J. Hribar

Florida Keys Mosquito Control District, 503 107th Street, Marathon,
Florida, 33050, USA

email: lhribar@keysmosquito.org

Abstract

A female tachinid fly, *Archytas (A.) nonamensis* Ravlin, 1984, was found in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap on 17–18 April 2025, at Angelfish Key (25.3279°N, 80.2609°W), Florida, USA.

Observation

A female tachinid fly, *Archytas (A.) nonamensis* Ravlin, 1984, was found in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap set for mosquito surveillance. Collection data are as follows: FL, Monroe Co., Angelfish Key, Sunrise Cay Dr., 17–18 March 2025, A. Loftus, coll., ABC trap. Angelfish Key (25.3279°N, 80.2609°W) is a small island close to the northern limit of the Florida Keys, south of Miami.

Archytas (A.) nonamensis Ravlin was described in Ravlin & Stehr (1984). The type locality is, as the specific epithet indicates, No Name

Key. The type series also includes a specimen from Key Largo (Ravlin 1975). Ravlin (1975) also reported a specimen from Matheson Hammock, which is in Miami-Dade County. This report from Angelfish Key is a new locality record.

Seven species in the genus *Archytas* have been reported from Florida, with most records from the northern parts of the State (Patton 1958, Arnaud 1978, O'Hara 2016). Two more *Archytas (Archytas)* species are known from Florida besides *A. nonamensis: marmoratus* (Townsend, 1915) – Patton (1958) reported a specimen from Miami-Dade County; and *rufiventris* Curran, 1928 – the types are from Miami-Dade County. One other species of this subgenus may occur in Florida: *A. (A.) apicifer* (Walker) is reported “throughout North America” (O'Hara 2016). Four *Archytas (Nemochaeta)* species have been found in Florida: *aterrimus* (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830), *convexiforceps* Brooks, 1949 – types are from Miami-Dade County, Ravlin & Stehr (1984) write that it is rare; *lateralis* (Macquart, 1844); and *metallicus* (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830).

All known hosts for *Archytas* larvae are Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae, Noctuidae, Erebidae (Arctiinae), Megalopygidae, Notodontidae, Psychidae (Arnaud 1978). The larval host for *A. nonamensis* is unknown.

When Ravlin (1975) specified collection methods, they were Malaise traps or McPhail traps. This is the first collection of *A. nonamensis* in a carbon dioxide-baited light trap (ABC [American Biophysics Company] trap, Clarke, Inc., St. Charles, IL). Malaise traps passively collect whatever flies into them (Malaise 1937). McPhail traps are sugar-baited traps (McPhail 1937) that can be used to collect a number of Diptera species (Steyskal 1977). Tachinidae are commonly collected on flowers (Reinhard 1919) so their attraction to the sugar bait is not a surprise. Why was this specimen collected in a light trap? Most tachinid species are diurnal, and a few are crepuscular or nocturnal (Stireman et al. 2006). Yet Frost (1964, 1966, 1969) collected 57 species of Tachinidae in light traps in central Florida, including *A. aterrimus*. Sparks et al. (1986) caught two species of tachinids in light traps 32 to 160 km offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, one of which was *A. apicifer*. In all cited papers, very few specimens of all tachinid species were collected, in most cases less than 10.

The specimen of *Archytas (Archytas) nonamensis* reported here from Angelfish Key in southern Florida has been retained in the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District insect collection.

Acknowledgement

I thank James O'Hara, Canadian National Collection of Insects, for his comments on a previous version of this manuscript.

References

- Arnaud PH Jr** 1978. A host-parasite catalog of North American Tachinidae (Diptera). United States Department of Agriculture. Miscellaneous Publication 1319: 1–860. Available from: <https://archive.org/details/hostparasitecata1319arna> (Accessed 09.04.2025)
- Frost SW** 1964. Insects taken in light traps at the Archbold Biological Station, Highlands County, Florida. The Florida Entomologist 47: 129–161. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3493289>
- Frost SW** 1966. Additions to Florida insects taken in light traps. The Florida Entomologist 49: 243–251. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3493887>
- Frost SW** 1969. Supplement to Florida Insects Taken in Light Traps. The Florida Entomologist 52: 91–101. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3493732>
- Malaise R** 1937. A new insect-trap. Entomologisk Tidskrift 58: 148–160. Available from: <https://archive.org/details/entomologisk-tidskrift-58-3-4-148-160> (Accessed 09.04.2025)
- McPhail M** 1937. Relationship of time of day, temperature, and evaporation to attractiveness of fermenting sugar solution to Mexican fruit fly. Journal of Economic Entomology 30: 793–799. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jee/30.5.793>
- O'Hara JE** 2016. Taxonomic and Host Catalogue of the Tachinidae of America North of Mexico. Available from: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/nadsfly/Tach/Nearctic/CatNAmer/Home/CatNAmerhome.html> (Accessed 09.04.2025)
- Patton CN** 1958. A Catalogue of the Larvaevoridae of Florida. The Florida Entomologist 41: 29–39. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3492632>
- Ravlin FW** 1975. A Revision of the genus *Archytas* Jaennicke (Diptera: Tachinidae) for America North of Mexico. M.S. Thesis, Michigan State University. <https://doi.org/doi:10.25335/rfr4-ed13>
- Ravlin FW, Stehr FW** 1984. Revision of the genus *Archytas* (Diptera: Tachinidae) from America north of Mexico. Miscellaneous Publications of the Entomological Society of America 58: 1–59. <https://doi.org/10.4182/DFCA1713>
- Reinhard HJ** 1919. Preliminary notes on Texas Tachinidae (Diptera). Entomological News 30: 279–285. Available from: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/84747#page/307/mode/1up> (Accessed 09.04.2025)
- Sparks AN, Jackson RD, Carpenter JE, Muller RA** 1986. Insects captured in light traps in the Gulf of Mexico. Annals of the Entomological Society of America 79: 132–139. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aesa/79.1.132>
- Steyskal GC** 1977. History and use of the McPhail trap. The Florida Entomologist 60: 11–16. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/3494476>
- Stireman III JO, O'Hara JE, Wood DM** 2006. Tachinidae: evolution, behavior, and ecology. Annual Review of Entomology 51: 525–555. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.ento.51.110104.151133>

Paper edited by Les Underhill
Biodiversity and Development Institute