

**Ethology of *Heteropogon paurosomus* Pritchard
(Diptera: Asilidae) in Mexico**

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ABSTRACT

In Guamuchil, Mexico, *Heteropogon paurosomus* Pritchard hunted entirely from vegetation in the tall grass/mesquite community. Prey, captured in flight, represented seven arthropod orders with Diptera, Heteroptera and Homoptera predominating. Courtship consisted of the male approaching the female from the front and engaging in an aerial "dance" in which it rocked fore-and-aft and elevated its fore tarsi. The flies positioned themselves in the typical *Heteropogon* 45 degree angle mating position following initial copulation in the male atop female position.

Key words: Insecta, Diptera, Asilidae, *Heteropogon paurosomus*, behaviour, feeding, courtship, mating

INTRODUCTION

A. E. Pritchard described the robber fly, *Heteropogon paurosomus*, in 1935 (Pritchard, 1935). His description was based on specimens collected in Tuscon, Arizona from twigs of some unspecified vegetation. There was no mention of the fly again in the literature until 1965, a period of 30 years, at which point Dr. Joseph Wilcox included it in his revised key to the genus *Heteropogon*. In the same year he and Dr. Charles Martin included the species name in the list of North American asilids they prepared for the new Diptera catalog (Martin and