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Townsend, J. Ives, Jr. Easily detectable morphological differences between D. tropicalis females and those of its sibling species.

Only minor and overlapping morphological differences between the sibling species of the willistoni group have been reported. Those differences are rather difficult to detect. Easily detectable differences do exist, however, between the females of D. tropicalis, on the one hand, and those of D. willistoni, D. paulistorum, and D. equinoxialis, on the other hand. The ventral receptacles of the latter three species exhibit about 12 folds in their coiling, while those of D. tropicalis possess only about 7 folds. The spermathecae of D. willistoni, D. paulistorum, and D. equinoxialis are very lightly chitinized and straw colored; those of D. tropicalis are much more heavily chitinized and medium brown (in both respects, intermediate between D. melanogaster and the other three sibling species). In contrast to the ventral receptacle difference, this spermathecal difference is sometimes usable for classifying undissected females, since the color of the spermatheca may often be visible through the abdominal wall.