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A new species of the genus *Tachydromia* MEIGEN from Europe

(Diptera: Empididae)

With 4 textfigures

In the year 1964 I collected empids in South Slovakia along the river Hron, where a great number of *Tachydromia* specimens occurred in the meadows on the right bank near the village Kamenín. Later on when identifying these specimens I found out that they all belonged to one species only. Unfortunately I took only a few specimens, 17 males and 11 females altogether, that belonged to a species undescribed up to the present time.

This species had not been quite unknown. ENGEL (1939) in elaborating the genus *Tachydromia* MEIGEN in "LINDNER", described this species as *T. fulvipes* MEIGEN, but this species had already been previously sank by MEIGEN himself as a synonym of his *fascipes* (see also COLLIN, 1961). The latter species is now to be considered as a pale form of *annulata* FALLÉN. Later on FREY (1943) in his revision of Palaearctic species of this genus saw the species in question as well, but was not sure about the identity and put it in Group 4 of his Table as *Platypalpus* sp.

This species is quite different from the other allied species and therefore I present the following description.

Tachydromia collini sp. n.

Male (holotype) (Fig. 1—4):

Head: Frons narrow, slightly narrower than the width of 2nd antennal segment, nearly parallel-sided, in the upper part opposite hind ocelli wider, entirely grey dusted. Face silvery grey dusted, not so wide as front of frons. Occiput on the upper half above neck greyish pollinose with greyish brown hairs, on the lower part more dusted and with longer whitish hairs. Vertex with single pair of long dark vertical bristles which are comparatively wide apart, of about twice the length of distance of hind ocelli. Ocellar bristles dark, about one half length of vertical bristles. Palpi yellowish, nearly rounded with three yellowish brown apical bristles. Proboscis shiny black. Antennae entirely black, 3rd segment nearly twice longer than its greatest width, arista long, about twice longer than length of 3rd segment.

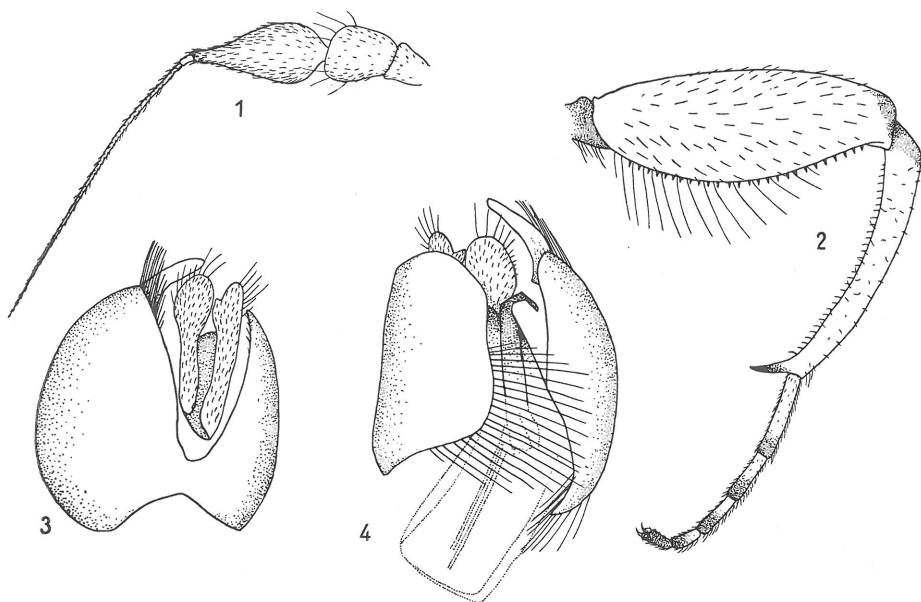
Thorax entirely grey dusted with only a small shining black patch on sternopleura, that does not extend to its hind margin. All thoracic bristles yellowish: acrostichals and dorsocentrals biserial, of moderate size, the last two pairs of irregular dorsocentrals much longer, nearly as long as inner pair of scutellar bristles. 1 longer humeral with several shorter ones and 3 long notopleural with some additional shorter bristles along the whole length of notopleura. 2 pairs of scutellar bristles, the inner pair distinctly longer.

Wings hyaline only slightly tinged with grey, veins dark, first longitudinal vein (R_1) and the other veins at base yellowish brown. Praefurca brownish, short, of about one half of length of the distance to humeral crossvein. 3rd and 4th longitudinal veins (R_{4+5} and M) slightly diverging in the middle part but nearly parallel towards tip. Squamae yellowish with long pale hairs, halteres whitish yellow, brownish at extreme base.

Legs yellow to yellowish brown with middle and hind coxae black, all trochanters brown, tarsi with distinct dark brown annulation at tip of each segment. Front coxae yellowish, slightly brownish at base, front side silvery pollinose with long whitish hairs. Middle and hind coxae shining black, only laterally with grey dusted patch and with long whitish hairs. Front femora slightly thickened, on basal two thirds on the outside brownish. The whole front femora, with the exception of the inner side, covered with long yellowish hairs nearly as long as femur is thick. Front tibiae slender with yellowish hairs slightly longer than tibia is thick. Middle femora stout, beneath with two rows of short black spines and with posteroventral row of long yellowish bristles. Middle tibiae about as slender as front tibiae with a strong and pointed black apical spur and with a row of fine black spines beneath. Hind legs slender with fine pale hairs beneath, hind tibiae at tip and knees on middle and hind pair brownish. Tarsi dark brown annulated, last segment nearly entirely dark.

Abdomen shining black with the sides and front margins of all terga dusted grey, so that only large shiny triangles remain on dorsum of each tergum. All sterna densely dusted grey. Abdominal segments with fine pale hairs that are longer on last segment. Genitalia large, shining black. Left (upper) lamella of epandrium smaller, left margin at basal half with very long whitish hairs that are nearly as long as lamella is wide. Right lamella on lower margin with several shorter whitish hairs, cerci slender, right cercus apically egg-shaped, the left one with small subapical tooth.

Length: Body 3,8 mm., wing 3 mm.



Figs. 1—4: *Tachydromia collini* sp. n. ♂.

Fig. 1. Antenna. — Fig. 2. Left middle leg. — Fig. 3. Epandrium and cerci, dorsal view. — Fig. 4. Hypopygium, ventral view

Female:

Resembling the male, legs usually entirely yellowish with the exception of middle and hind coxae, knees and all trochanters and annulated tarsi. Abdomen conical, 7th segment predominantly greyish dusted, terminal papillae slender, about as long as 8th segment.

Length: Males 3,5–4 mm., females 3–4 mm.

Variability: In some specimens, especially in the males, front and middle femora are on the upper outside dark brown with all intermediates to entirely yellow femora. Hind femora sometimes with indication of brownish ring near tip. In some specimens first trochanter slightly yellowish.

Holotype: Slovakia mer., Kamenín 13. 5. 1964 (leg. M. CHVÁLA), 1 male. Deposited in National Museum, Praha.

Paratypes: 16 males and 11 females, the same locality. Deposited in National Museum, Praha; British Museum (Natural History), London; Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Eberswalde; always one male and one female, the rest of material in author's collection.

The new species is named in honour of Mr. J. E. COLLIN, the best specialist in this family, whom I was fortunate enough to visit together with Dr. G. MORGE (Eberswalde) in his house in Newmarket and to discuss several questions about these problems.

T. collini sp. n. belongs to the group of species with only one pair of vertical bristles, with distinct humeral bristle, with black antennae and thorax distinctly grey dusted with yellowish bristles. It differs from *annulata* FALLÉN, inter alia, in biserial acrostichals bristles. The other European species of this group with biserial acrostichals (*notata* MEIGEN, *strigifrons* ZETTERSTEDT, *infecta* COLLIN, *carteri* COLLIN and *praecincta* COLLIN) have longer third antennal segment that is at most only slightly shorter than arista and if 3rd antennal segment is shorter and arista distinctly longer (*interstincta* COLLIN, *coarctata* COLLIN and *claranda* COLLIN) then abdomen is predominantly shining black. *T. collini* is most easily distinguishable from all species of this group by grey dusted abdominal terga at sides and along the front margins and by entirely grey dusted venter of abdomen. If in the other species the abdomen is with grey patches at sides (*praecincta* COLLIN, *carteri* COLLIN and partially *coarctata* COLLIN and *claranda* COLLIN) then sterna are always shining black (or reddish brown in the latter species).

Distribution: Central and South Europe. Previously recorded by FREY (1943) from Czechoslovakia (Bohemia, Praha) and Yugoslavia (Ljubljana), now it has been ascertained as common species in South Slovakia. I have not yet had the opportunity to study the other European material of this genus, but I am sure *collini* will be found at other localities.

Summary

The author describes a new European *Tachydromia* species of the *cursitans-pallidiventris*-group (apud COLLIN, 1961).

Zusammenfassung

Der Autor beschreibt eine neue europäische Art der Gattung *Tachydromia* MEIGEN aus der *cursitans-pallidiventris*-Gruppe (apud COLLIN, 1961).

Резюме

Автор описывает новый европейский вид из рода *Tachydromia* MEIGEN, из группы видов *cursitans-pallidiventris* (apud COLLIN, 1961).

References

- COLLIN, J. E., Empididae. In: British Flies. Pp. I—VIII, 1—782, Cambridge; 1961.
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