

The *appendiculatus* species-group of *Habropogon* Loew, 1847 (Diptera: Asilidae) in the Palaearctic Region, including the description of new species

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Abstract

Six Palaearctic species of the *Habropogon appendiculatus*-group are recognized, two of them being described as new: *H. hauseri*, sp. n. and *H. theodori*, sp. n. A key for their identification and comments on their distribution are provided. The distributions of three species are extended: *H. aegyptius* Efflatoun, 1937 occurs also in Jordan, *H. appendiculatus* Schiner, 1867 in Spain, and *H. parappendiculatus* Weinberg & Tsacas, 1973 in Morocco.

Key words: Insecta, Diptera, Asilidae, *Habropogon*, new records, new species, key, Palaearctic region, Croatia, Israel, Morocco, Russia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia

Introduction

The genus *Habropogon* Loew, 1847 is confined to the Palaearctic and Afrotropical Regions, in which 41 species and one subspecies are distributed (34 in the Palaearctic Region). An accumulation of the new Palaearctic material in the collection of the authors as well as some museum collections prompted this study, which increases the number of species to 43.

This study treats the *H. appendiculatus*-group, which is characterized by the presence of lanceolate or ribbon-shaped setae on the fifth tarsomere of the midlegs in males (Figs 13, 14). This feature is also known from the following Afrotropical species: *H. capensis* Londt, 1981, *H. cochranee* Londt, 2000, and *H. namibiensis* Londt, 1999.

The Palaearctic species of the *Habropogon appendiculatus*-group are: *H. aegyptius* Efflatoun, 1937, *H. appendiculatus* Schiner, 1867, *H. hauseri* sp. n., *H. parappendiculatus*