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A new microbombyliid *Mythenteles rameli* sp.n. (Diptera, Mythicomyiidae) from Northern Greece

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Abstract

A new species of the microbombyliid genus *Mythenteles*, *M. rameli* Gibbs, **sp. n.** is described from northern Greece with full illustrations of the male and female genitalia.

Key words: Mythicomyiidae, *Mythenteles*, microbombyliids, new species, Greece

Introduction

Since the *Mythenteles* Hall & Evenhuis were revised by Evenhuis (2003) one further species has been described, *M. andalusica* Gibbs, 2007 bringing the total to 13 species. For the last two years I have been working Malaise and yellow pan-trap material from Northern Greece on behalf of Project Kerkini. The traps were run and the material sorted by Gordon Ramel who passed the Pipunculidae, Bombyliidae and Mythicomyiidae to me for determination. No species of Mythicomyiidae were very common or frequent, most occurring in small numbers and from just three trapping localities, the vast majority from just one trap. The most abundant species in these samples by some way was a striking black and yellow *Mythenteles* species.

The attempt to identify these specimens ran into problems at the first couplet of the key to species provided by Evenhuis (2003) because the scutellum colour varies from almost entirely dark to mostly yellow, usually with apical half yellow. Taking the first option they run to *M. asiatica* (Evenhuis) and the second to *M. infrequens* Evenhuis & Blasco-Zumeta. The latter species, known only from Spain, was readily eliminated because it lacks cross-vein DM-Cu. This conclusion was confirmed by examination of the male genitalia which are quite different (Gibbs 2007: figs 10–14).

M. asiatica, known by a single female from Sichuan Province in central China, is a very unlikely candidate to turn up in northern Greece, especially given that no species of the genus is known to have a wide distribution. However, because the genus is so little known the possibility needed to be ruled out. Because the unique holotype has not been dissected, the genitalia, usually a sure way to identify *Mythenteles*, were of no help. The description of *M. asiatica* suggests a darker species, with black pleurae and coxae, and yet with an entirely yellow scutellum. Also, despite it being apically broken in the holotype, the proboscis is clearly longer in *asiatica* than in *rameli*. As a final check specimens have been sent to Neal Evenhuis at Bishop Museum, Honolulu who confirms that these Greek specimens are an undescribed species.

Because the new species fails to be resolved at the first couplet in the key to species provided by Evenhuis (2003), a modified version of the entire key is presented here. It will be necessary to refer to Evenhuis (2003) for the illustrations.

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