Dolichopodidae (Diptera) from the Iberian Peninsula, with description of three new species

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Abstract

Faunistic data is given for 43 species of Dolichopodidae from the Iberian Peninsula. Altogether nine species are recorded for the first time from Portugal and six species from Spain. Three species are described as new to science: Chrysotimus meridionalis sp. nov. (Spain, Portugal), Hercostomus ibericus sp. nov. (Spain), and Sciapus negrobovi sp. nov. (Portugal).

Key words: Dolichopodidae, Iberian Peninsula, Spain, Portugal, new species, new records

Introduction

The Dolichopodidae, or long-legged flies, are small to medium sized flies of slender built with a body length of 1–12 mm. Most species have a conspicuous metallic green shiny body and relatively long legs. It is a large family of Diptera comprising some 7400 described species occurring in all biogeographical regions (Pape et al. 2011). In Europe more than 800 species and subspecies are recorded (Pollet 2004). Adults are predators on soft-bodied invertebrates and some are important control agents of pest species. The larvae are found in habitats such as soil, mud, and under bark, and some genera, as for example Medetera, are known as predators of bark beetles.

The long-legged flies (Dolichopodidae) of the Iberian Peninsula are poorly known. Recent contributions to the dolichopodid fauna were made by Carles-Tolrá (2001), Brunel & Blasco-Zumeta (2001) and Ventura et al. (2002). The following number of species have been recorded so far from the Ibero-Balearic area: Spanish mainland 187, Portuguese mainland 23, Andorra 4, Azores 20, Balearic Islands 7, Canary Islands 58, Gibraltar 1, Madeira 20 (Pollet 2004). That is a low number of species compared for example to the French mainland, where 393 species and subspecies are known (Pollet 2004). Thus, many new records and even new species may be discovered by intensive, specifically targeted collecting activities on the Iberian Peninsula.

Material and methods

The material treated in this paper originates from three collecting trips to Spain and Portugal organized by the second author in the years 2006, 2008, and 2009. The material was collected by means of sweeping (SW) or yellow and white water pan traps (PT).

The complete list of studied localities is given below.