

## ***Austalis*, a new genus of flower flies (Diptera: Syrphidae) with revisionary notes on related genera**

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### **Abstract**

A new genus and species of flower flies are described from the Australian biotic region (*Austalis* Thompson & Vockeroth, type *Eristalis resolutus* Walker; *Austalis rhina* Thompson (Solomon Is.)). A key is provided to the groups of the subtribe Eristalina, along with nomenclatural notes and checklist of genus-group names. Five genus-group names and 1 species-group name are synonymized (*Pseudomeromacrus* Li, 1994 = *Eristalinus* (*Merodonoides* Curran, 1931)); *Cryptoeristalis* Kuznetsov 1994 = *Eristalis* (*Eoseristalis* Kanervo, 1938)); *Paramesembrius* Shiraki 1930, *Klossia* Curran, 1931 & *Catacores* Hull, 1944 = *Kertesziomyia* Shiraki, 1930; *Eristalis maritima* Hull, 1945 = *Austalis resoluta* (Walker, 1858)).

**Key words:** Taxonomy, Syrphidae, key, Australian Region, rat-tailed maggots

### **Introduction**

Eristaline flower flies are among the most common and conspicuous flower flies. These flies are common pollinators almost wherever flowers are found, being absent only in truly arid areas and the Polar Regions. The larvae of eristaline flower flies are filter feeders in all kinds of aquatic media. Occasionally these larvae are accidentally swallowed by humans, thus, causing myiasis. Otherwise, the larvae contribute to the purification of water by filtering out microorganisms and other products. These flies are currently placed into 16 genera and 400 species.

The concept denoted by the name *Eristalis* has been very broad, including a diverse array of species. Over the years, particularly while preparing species catalogs (Knutson, et al., 1975; Thompson, et al. 1976; Smith & Vockeroth, 1980; Thompson & Vockeroth, 1989), Vockeroth and I have developed new definitions for the natural groups covered by