

A review of the *H. obtusipennis* species-group of the genus *Helina* R.-D. (Diptera: Muscidae) from the Palearctic and Oriental regions, with description of one new species

MING-FU WANG^{1*}, RONG-RONG WANG^{2,3} & WAN-QI XUE¹

1. Institute of Entomology, Shenyang Normal University, Shenyang 110034, China

2. Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100080, China

3. Graduate School of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100039, China

*To whom the correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: wangmingfu403@163.com

Abstract

The *Helina obtusipennis* species-group is erected for nine species of *Helina* in the Palearctic and Oriental regions, namely *H. atlantica* (Tiensuu), *H. ciliatocosta* (Zetterstedt), *H. eurymetopa* Emden, *H. macrocera* Hennig, *H. mandschurica* Hennig, *H. medogensis* sp. nov., *H. obtusipennis* (Fallén), *H. setigera* (Pokorný), and *H. spinicosta* (Zetterstedt). These species are Palearctic in distribution except for *H. eurymetopa* Emden and *H. medogensis*, which are known from the Oriental Region. Members of this group can be easily differentiated from those of other *Helina* species-groups by their broad frons in both sexes with one or two pairs of upper orbital setae. A key to the males of the *H. obtusipennis* species-group is given.

Key words: Diptera, Muscidae, *Helina*, *H. obtusipennis* species-group, new species

Introduction

The genus *Helina* Robineau-Desvoidy is the second largest genus of the Muscidae, with more than 520 species currently known worldwide.

In the Old World, Ringdahl (1924, 1949) was the first to attempt a division of *Helina* into species-groups, but his work was limited geographically and his conclusions were only preliminary although they would still warrant further investigation. Ringdahl did not cite this work in his 'Svensk Insektfauna' (1956), nor was it taken up by Hennig (1957–1958) in his monograph of Palearctic Muscidae. In the Afrotropical region, van Emden (1951) divided *Helina* into 5 subgenera (*Helina* s.str., *Euspilaria* Malloch, *Helinella* Malloch, *Hebecnema* Schnabl and *Mydhelina* Emden), and also repeated this position in