



***Mythenteles andalusica* sp.n. (Diptera, Mythicomyiidae) from Southern Spain and the first description of the male of *M. infrequens* Evenhuis & Blasco-Zumeta, 2003**

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Abstract

A new species of the microbombyliid genus *Mythenteles* is described from southern Spain with full illustrations of the male and female genitalia. The discovery of the previously unknown male of *M. infrequens* Evenhuis & Blasco-Zumeta is reported and the male genitalia figured.

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

Introduction

During a short trip to southern Spain in 2006 I obtained a number of Mythicomyiidae which were frequenting various flowers, particularly *Cistus* and *Convolvulus*. Amongst a good series of *Empidideicus hackmani* François were several which proved to belong to the genus *Mythenteles* Hall & Evenhuis. In his recent revision of *Mythenteles* Evenhuis (2003) recognised 12 species scattered across the northern hemisphere from the Southwest USA and Mexico, southern Europe, the Middle East, the Indian Subcontinent and southern China. Although such tiny flies are likely to have been overlooked, most species seem to be genuinely rare and localised. Many are known from very few specimens, four species from unique holotypes.

Using the key in Evenhuis (2003) two of these specimens were readily identifiable as *M. infrequens* Evenhuis & Blasco-Zumeta, a species known only from the holotype female. The remaining specimens would not key cleanly but on dissection of the female genitalia it was apparent that they show affinities with *M. deemingi* Evenhuis, known only from Cyprus, but lacking crossvein dm-cu. As wing venation is not always stable I compared my specimens with *M. deemingi* in the NMCW which confirmed them as closely related but quite different taxon.

The following modification to the key to *Mythenteles* in Evenhuis (2003) should take account of *M. andalusica*.

- 7. Proboscis long, about 1.5 times head height; tibia with yellow apically (northern India)
.....*indica* (Brunetti)
- Proboscis shorter than head height, tibia all dark, no yellow colour apically7a
- 7a. Proboscis short, only slightly protruding beyond oral margin; abdominal tergites I–III all dark, without yellow fasciae; with only 2 spermathecae, the middle one missing (Israel) *coptopheles* Evenhuis
- Proboscis longer, about 0.6 times head height and clearly protruding beyond the oral margin; abdominal tergites I–III usually with yellowish fasciae laterally; with three subequal spermathecae, the middle one with a much shorter and simplified duct (Spain).....*andalusica* sp.n.