



Two new species of European *Stevenia* Robineau-Desvoidy (Diptera: Rhinophoridae) and a key to the Palaearctic species

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Abstract

Two new species of *Stevenia* are described from Europe: *Stevenia etrusca* **sp. nov.** (Italian mainland: Toscana) and *S. palermitana* **sp. nov.** (Italy: Sicily, Palermo prov.). A key to all known Palaearctic species of the genus is provided.

Key words: Rhinophoridae, *Stevenia*, Europe, Italy, new species, key to species

Introduction

The family Rhinophoridae contains some 150 named species worldwide (Pape 1998; Pape & Arnaud 2001; Thompson 2006). Europe, and particularly the Mediterranean biome, is remarkably rich in species, which can only partly be ascribed to its longer and more thorough taxonomic exploration. Following Herting's (1961) monograph on the Palaearctic Rhinophoridae, all new species of this family have been described from outside Europe (Peris 1963; Herting 1966; Crosskey 1977; Kugler 1978; Báez 1979a,b, 1988; Colless 1994; Pape & Kurahashi 1994; Pape 1985, 1987a,b, 1997; Pape & Arnaud 2001).

The genus *Stevenia* Robineau-Desvoidy was previously known from twenty-one species: nineteen from the W-Palaearctic subregion (Canary Islands [1 endemic], central and southern Europe, North Africa and Middle East) (Crosskey 1977; Herting 1961, 1993); one Afrotropical from Socotra (Crosskey 1977); and one Oriental from Sri Lanka.

Very little is known on the biology of *Stevenia* spp., but they are expected to be parasites of woodlice (Crustacea: Isopoda) like other Rhinophoridae. Breeding records exist for *S. atramentaria* (Meigen), which is reported as parasitizing *Porcellio scaber* Latreille (Porcellionidae), *Philoscia affinis* Verhoeff (Philosciidae) and *Tracheoniscus arcuatus* Budde-Lund (Trachelipodidae), possibly even *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus (Herting 1961, Crosskey 1977); and *S. signata* Mik, which has been bred from *Armadillidium vulgare* (Latreille) and *A. frontirostre* Budde-Lund (Bürgis 1991, 1992).

We are here describing two new species of *Stevenia*, from mainland Italy and from the Italian island of Sicily, respectively. A key to separate the new species from their congeners in the Palaearctic Region is provided.

Material and methods

The dissection of male terminalia was carried out following the method described in detail by O'Hara (2002). The terminalia of each dissected male are preserved in glycerine in a small plastic vial, which is pinned