



On the genus *Urytalpa* Edwards (Diptera: Keroplatidae) in the Nordic and Nearctic regions, with fixation of a new type species and a key to world males

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Abstract

The five Nordic species of the genus *Urytalpa* Edwards (Diptera: Keroplatidae) are revised, of which one species, *Urytalpa galdes* Hedmark & Kjaerandsen, **sp. n.**, is described as new to science based on males collected in northern Sweden. We find that the original type species assignment for *Urytalpa* (*Platyura ochracea* Meigen, 1818) is based on a misidentification, and in order to stabilize the nomenclature we therefore select a new type species, *Urytalpa dorsalis* (Staeger, 1840), **sp. restit.** A lectotype is designated for *Orfelia ochracea* (Meigen, 1818), **comb. n.** = *Orfelia unicolor* (Staeger, 1840), **syn. n.** The males of *U. atriceps* (Edwards, 1913), *U. dorsalis*, *U. macrocera* (Edwards, 1913) and *U. trivittata* (Lundström, 1914), and the females of *U. dorsalis*, *U. macrocera* and *U. trivittata* are described and illustrated based on Nordic material. As the first known Nearctic representative of *Urytalpa*, *U. nigrita* (Johannsen, 1910), **comb. n.**, known from western USA (Washington) and Canada, is transferred from *Pyrtaula* to *Urytalpa*, illustrated and compared with the closely related *U. rhapsodica* Chandler, 1995 from central Europe. A key to all known males is provided. The generic limits of *Urytalpa* as presently understood are vague in relation to related genera and the genus is in need of a revision.

Key words: Orfeliini, new species, new synonym, new combination, Nordic revision

Introduction

Fungus gnats of the genus *Urytalpa* Edwards are placed in the tribe Orfeliini, belonging to the subfamily Keroplatinae of the Keroplatidae (Evenhuis 2006). The genus *Urytalpa* was originally described as a subgenus of *Platyura* Meigen by Edwards (1929) who distinguished and keyed 19 subgenera, all of them now regarded as separate genera (Evenhuis 2006). *Urytalpa* was first termed as a separate genus by Matile (1977) and characterized in relation to related genera by Matile (1978). Since then new species have been described by Ostroverkhova (1979), Chandler (1994, 1995), Zaitzev & Menzel (1996) and Uesugi (2004), some of whom have questioned the generic limits of the genus. Evenhuis (2006) listed 11 Palearctic and 1 Oriental species, and Bechev & Koç (2008) recently added yet another new species from Turkey and transferred *Platyura maritima* Becker, 1907 known from Tunisia, to *Urytalpa*.

Species of *Urytalpa* are not frequently encountered, but sometimes occur in large numbers when found. Little is known about their biology and the scarce material has resulted in two of the species, *U. ochracea* (Meigen, 1818) and *U. trivittata* (Lundström, 1914), being included in the Swedish Red List (Gärdenfors 2005). The larva is known for *U. ochracea* only, which is considered to be a spore-feeder (Matile 1997). As a part of the Swedish Taxonomy Initiative (see Miller 2005) Nordic fungus gnats are being investigated, and