



Three new species of Chloropidae (Diptera) from southern Sardinia*

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Abstract

During a recent survey of arthropod diversity in several localities of southern Sardinia, three new species of Chloropidae (Diptera) were discovered: *Aphanotrigonum lanceolatum* **sp. nov.**, *Dicraeus sardous* **sp. nov.** and *Elachiptera sarda* **sp. nov.** The first is close to *A. hastatum* Dely-Draskovits from Afghanistan; the second is placed in subgenus *Oedesiella* Becker; the third is compared to *E. cornuta* (Fallén, 1820) and *E. rufifrons* Duda, 1932.

Key words: Diptera, Chloropidae, Italy, Sardinia, new species

Introduction

The Chloropidae of Sardinia have never been the subject of focussed specific research. Old citations of Chloropidae from Sardinia include those by Costa (1883, 1884a, 1884b, 1885, 1886, 1891), Corti (1909) and Leonardi (1927), while Canzoneri *et al.* (1995) recorded 36 species (in 17 genera) from Sardinia in general, without further details on their distribution. According to the *Fauna Europaea* online database (Nartshuk 2004), the current knowledge for this family in Sardinia is 38 recorded species.

Between 2003 and 2006, the Centro Nazionale per lo Studio e la Conservazione della Biodiversità Forestale “Bosco Fontana”, Verona (Italy) (CNBFVR) collected large quantities of entomological material in the framework of a study on the arthropods of southern Sardinia, mainly in the southwestern areas of Marganai and Montimannu (Carbonia-Iglesias province and Medio Campidano province, respectively) (*cf.* Mason *et al.* 2006) but also in the southeastern province of Ogliastra. Over 3,000 Chloropidae were collected during the survey, including specimens belonging to three undescribed species: *Aphanotrigonum lanceolatum* **sp. nov.**, *Dicraeus sardous* **sp. nov.** and *Elachiptera sarda* **sp. nov.**, all belonging to the subfamily Oscinellinae. These are described here and compared with related species. The other species collected during the survey will be treated in a separate paper.

Study area

The new species of Chloropidae were collected from the following localities: Monte Tonneri (Seui, Ogliastra province), Lago Siuru (Domusnovas, Carbonia-Iglesias province) and Valle Oridda (Domusnovas, Carbonia-Iglesias province) (see further on for details and geographic coordinates of these sites).

Monte Tonneri is a large limestone plateau south of the Gennargentu massif, with a maximum altitude of 1,324 m. The plateau is partly covered by forest (1,668 ha), mainly composed of *Quercus ilex* (holm oak)