



Notes on the status of some species of the *Medetera jacula* group (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

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Currently, Grichanov (2002, 2007) placed in synonymy a number of species belonging to the *Medetera jacula* group, but without proper discussion based on the analysis of characters of the type specimens. In this paper arguments are provided in support for the re-establishment of these species.

Medetera meridionalis Negrobov, 1967

Negrobov, 1967: Ent. Obozr. 46(4): 903

Grichanov, 2002: Ent. Tidskr. 123(3): 120 (as synonym of *Medetera jacula* (Fallén, 1823)).

This species was described by Negrobov (1967) after a long series taken from the south of Russia (Voronezh, Rostov, Volgograd, Penza and Orenburg Provinces, Altay and Krasnodar Territories), the Ukraine (Odessa, Taganrog, Poltava and Lugansk Provinces, the Crimea), Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan. Grichanov (2002) synonymised *M. meridionalis* with *M. jacula* (Fallén, 1823), a well-defined species and common throughout Europe, northern Africa and into the Ukraine and Russia. Within the key to Palaearctic species of the genus (Negrobov and Stackelberg 1972), *M. meridionalis* runs to *M. petrophila* Kowarz, 1877, *M. jacula*, *M. armeniaca* Negrobov, 1972 and *M. petrophiloides* Parent, 1925, which differ from it by three brown and two light grey longitudinal mesonotal vittae. *Medetera meridionalis* and *M. jacula* can be distinguished by a short bristle found in front of the first strong presutural dorsocentral bristle on the anterior part of the mesonotum (Figs. 11, 12). If you follow Grichanov's opinion concerning this feature, it would be logical to include in this synonymy *M. petrophila*, however, Grichanov maintained it as a separate species. In addition, *M. meridionalis* and *M. jacula* can also be distinguished by the size of the hypopygium and by its structures (Figs. 1–12). In *M. meridionalis* the hypopygium is significantly larger (cf Figs. 1 and 3), surstyli are longer and narrower, apical parts of surstyli and cerci have different structures than *M. jacula* (cf Figs. 5, 7 and 6, 8). Also, there are some differences between these species in ecological preferences. *Medetera meridionalis* occurs in southern regions where this species is found in grass steppe areas lacking forests. *Medetera jacula* inhabits tree trunks and vertical wood surfaces of houses.

Medetera petrophiloides Parent, 1925

Parent, 1925: Ann. Soc. sci. Bruxelles 44 (C.r.): 553

Grichanov, 2002: Ent. Tidskr. 123(3): 120 (as synonym of *Medetera petrophila* Kowarz, 1877).

Grichanov (2002) assigned *M. petrophiloides* as a junior synonym of *M. petrophila*. However, this is not accepted here and both species can be readily distinguished by a number of characters (e.g., shining vs. pollinose clypeus, colour of propleural bristles and hairs on fore coxae, and some details of the male hypopygium), as Parent (1938, figs 557–559) has already indicated. Additionally, *M. petrophiloides* has only one strong mesonotal presutural bristle, narrow and long hypopygium (epandrium nearly as long as abdominal segment 4), the face with shining median spot; surstyli are about 1.5 times shorter than epandrium but considerably longer than epandrium is broad (Figs. 13, 14). In *M. petrophila* there are two dorsocentral presutural mesonotal bristles, the hypopygium is broader, surstyli are short, more than two times as