



Descriptions and records of the Palearctic *Molophilus* Curtis (Diptera, Limoniidae)

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Abstract

Seven new species of *Molophilus* (*Molophilus*) are described, viz. *M. (M.) cretica* **sp. n.** (Greece (Crete)), *M. (M.) cypriicola* **sp. n.** (Cyprus), *M. (M.) carbonis* **sp. n.** (Portugal), *M. (M.) hradileki* **sp. n.** (Kazakhstan), *M. (M.) brevifurcatus* **sp. n.** (Czech Republic, Slovakia), *M. (M.) calabricus* **sp. n.** (South Italy), and *M. (M.) suboccultus* **sp. n.** (Portugal). Lackschewitz's (1940a) "varieties" *obscura* of *M. (M.) propinquus* (Egger, 1863) and *testacea* of *M. (M.) griseus* (Meigen, 1804) are elevated to species rank and redescribed, and a new replacement name, *ibericus* **nom. n.**, is proposed for the former species. Lectotypes are designated for *M. (M.) nigrescens* Lackschewitz, 1940, *M. (M.) ibericus* **nom. n.**, and *M. (M.) pleuralis* de Meijere, 1920, and the male terminalia are redescribed for *M. (M.) nigrescens*. All important characters are illustrated. New records of some other *Molophilus* (*Molophilus*) species are appended.

Key words: Diptera, Limoniidae, Palearctic *Molophilus* (*Molophilus*), new species, redescrptions, elevations in rank, new replacement name, lectotype designations, new records

Introduction

This is a contribution to the knowledge of the Palearctic, mostly West Palearctic, species of the genus *Molophilus* Curtis, 1833, subgenus *Molophilus* s. str., without focusing on any particular species group or species complex of this vast and worldwide taxon (138 Palearctic species, 870 species worldwide, see Oosterbroek 2010). The main, descriptive part of this paper (Descriptions), arranged in accordance with general morphology of the male terminalia and the relationships of the species, deals with 11 species. I describe seven new species, elevate two of Lackschewitz's (1940a) "varieties" to species rank and redescribe them, redescribe the male terminalia of another species, designate lectotypes of three species, and establish a new replacement name. Important characters, mostly those of the male terminalia, are illustrated for all the species treated in this section. The second part (Records), a section arranged in purely alphabetical order, presents new records of another eight *Molophilus* (*Molophilus*) species. All but one of these are new country records. The record of one species (*M. (M.) oldenbergi*) is significant as the first record since the original description.

Most species described or redescribed here form distinctive morphological pairs with their closest relatives, sharing with them general structure of the male terminalia, and only differing from them by minor genital traits. This, nevertheless, distinguishes them as separate species, the more so when, which is often the case, they also differ from their counterparts by some external characters.

The morphological terminology adopted here essentially follows McAlpine (1981). Some special parts of the male terminalia of *Molophilus*, especially the various lobes of the gonocoxite, are referred to in the figures (Figs 1, 30).

The following acronyms for museums and collections are used in the text: JSO—Collection of J. Starý, Olomouc, Czech Republic; NHMW—Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria; SMOG—Slezské zemské muzeum, Opava, Czech Republic; ZFMK—Zoologisches Forschungsmuseum Alexander Koenig, Bonn, Germany; ZMAN—Zoölogisch Museum, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; ZMHB—Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany.