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First record of the genus *Chvalaea* Papp & Földvári from Northern Europe (Diptera: Hybotidae)

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Two species of *Chvalaea* Papp & Földvári, 2001 are known from Europe. *Chvalaea rugosiventris* (Strobl, 1910), the type species of the genus, was originally described as a species of *Leptopeza* Macquart, 1827 (Strobl 1910). It was long known only by the holotype male from Austria, but today it is known also from Croatia and Hungary (Chvála 1983, 2003; Papp & Földvári 2001). Sinclair and Cumming (2000) first recognised *Chvalaea* as "undescribed genus B". Papp and Földvári (2001) subsequently described the genus and added a second European species, *Chvalaea sopianae* Papp & Földvári, 2001, from Hungary. Five additional species of *Chvalaea* have recently been described by Ale-Rocha (2006) from the Neotropics, including the first description of males of the genus. The genus is also known from China and SE Asia from unpublished records (Adrian Plant, pers. comm.). Ale-Rocha (2007) and Cumming and Sinclair (2009) have published keys for separating *Chvalaea* from *Oropezella* based on South American material, but they are also valid for the currently known European species of these genera. *Chvalaea sopianae* keys out, somewhat uneasily, as an *Oropezella* in Chvála (1983). It differs from true *Oropezella* by the heavily sclerotized and rugose abdomen, hooked hind tarsi and the lack of acrostichal and dorsocentral setae on the mesonotum.

The Finnish expert group on Diptera organized a field collecting trip to Ilomantsi, the easternmost municipality of Finland in the summer of 2008. On June 24th we visited an old forest stand in Pampalo, Ilomantsi, some 1.5 km NNW of the Pampalo gold mine (62°59.8'N, 31°15.2'E). The forest stand was dominated by mature Norwegian spruce (*Picea abies*). Old deciduous trees, mostly birch (*Betula* spp.) and aspen (*Populus tremula*) were also present in lesser numbers. The soil humidity varied from saturated depressions to relatively well drained soils on the upper slopes of low ridges. The highest fly diversity was found on the lower ridge slopes where dead wood was abundant. A large, slender hybotid fly was swept, netted by the author from the trunk of a decaying aspen log. The specimen (Fig. 1) was later identified as a female of *Chvalaea sopianae*. It is currently stored in the author's private Diptera collection as specimen jka08-00169.

The Pampalo old forest stand proved to be interesting from a dipterological point of view. In addition to *Chvalaea*, several noteworthy saproxylic Diptera were recorded from the site. *Xylophagus kowarzi* (Pleske, 1925) was numerous on fallen trunks of deciduous trees. Larvae and copulating pairs of this fly were taken from aspen logs. Empty puparia of *Xylomya czekanovskii* Pleske, 1925 were found under aspen bark. Sweep-netting yielded another rare hybotid, *Leptodromiella crassiseta* Tuomikoski, 1936, the syrphid *Lejota ruficornis* (Zetterstedt, 1843), and no less than five species of clusiids: *Clusiodes apicalis* (Zetterstedt, 1848), *C. freyi* Tuomikoski, 1933, *C. geomyzinus* (Fallén, 1823), *C. pictipes* (Zetterstedt, 1855) and *C. ruficollis* (Meigen, 1830). This small old forest stand clearly has a noteworthy fly fauna. The adverse effect of the relatively small size of the mature old forest (less than 100 m x 500 m) is probably mitigated by the presence of other similar patches of mature forest in the vicinity. It should be noted that the spring of 2008 was relatively cool in the region and the weeks leading up to the capture date had been cold, with local snowfall in mid-June.

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