



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3964.3.2>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:3D7D06E0-AFB4-4D47-A0EA-C987635D0613>

Five species under *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) mitis* (Meigen, 1830) (Diptera, Limoniidae)

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Abstract

Five species previously usually treated as *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) mitis* (Meigen, 1830) are redescribed and named with already existing names, viz. *D. (D.) mitis* [s. str.], *D. (D.) affinis* (Schummel, 1829), *D. (D.) quadra* (Meigen, 1838), **sp. restit.**, *D. (D.) lutea* (Meigen, 1804), and *D. (D.) imbecilla* Lackschewitz in Lackschewitz & Pagast, 1941, **stat. n.** All important characters of the wing, male tarsi and male and female terminalia are illustrated. A key to *D. (D.) mitis* and allies is appended.

Key words: Diptera, Limoniidae, *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) mitis* and allies, nomenclature, taxonomy, redescrptions, key

Introduction

The *Dicranomyia (Dicranomyia) chorea* (Meigen, 1818) species group, as defined recently (Starý 1993), is a species-rich cluster, with still many unnamed species in the West Palaearctic, including Europe. About a dozen species were described or reinstated from synonymy recently (Geiger 1985, Starý 1993, 2006, 2009, Starý & Freidberg 2007), but all of these are distinctly different in the wing pattern and/or the structure of the male terminalia from what has been considered *D. (D.) mitis* (Meigen, 1830).

Dicranomyia (D.) mitis was long regarded as a common, widely distributed, and extremely variable European species. It was distinguished from other species of the *D. (D.) chorea* species group by having, on the wing, at most two distinct spots at the anterior margin, one over the origin of Rs and the other over the distal part of R₁ (pterostigma) (Figs 16–20). Another spot at the anterior margin of the wing, proximal to the two, at Sc₂, is well-developed in some species of the *D. (D.) chorea* species group. It is, however, quite tiny in what was considered *D. (D.) mitis* and is here not referred to. Male terminalia have the ventral (inner) gonostylus rather long-ovoid in dorsal outline, about twice as long as broad, with the rostral spines long, distinctly longer than the rostral prolongation of the ventral gonostylus (Figs 6–10). In the first half of the last century, some attempts were made to subdivide *D. (D.) mitis*. Edwards (1938) distinguished three “varieties”, viz. the typical variety of *D. (D.) mitis*, var. *affinis* Schummel, and var. *lutea* Meigen. Lackschewitz (1928) and Lackschewitz & Pagast (1941) added some other varieties. None of the above authors disturbed the species integrity of *D. (D.) mitis*, because they failed to find differences in the structure of the male terminalia. Subsequent European authors mostly did not differentiate among the forms of *D. (D.) mitis*. Stubbs (1998a) was the first to divide *D. (D.) mitis* into five separate species in his key, using Edwards’s (1938) concept of the names for three of them and denoting the two remaining species as “A” and “B”. This classification did not get into the British Diptera Checklist (Stubbs 1998b) and has only been accepted by some British authors because of inaccessibility of the relevant paper (Stubbs 1998a).

In addition to the characters mentioned by Stubbs (1998a) for separating the five species we here give further distinctions in the structure of the male terminalia and also describe the female terminalia. The shape of the male tarsal claws and two distal tarsomeres appear to be additional important criteria (Figs 1–5), independent of genital