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The description of the female of *Platycheirus troll* Mutin (Diptera, Syrphidae) with a preliminary key to the Northern Palaearctic females of the *Platycheirus clypeatus* group

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Abstract

The female of *Platycheirus troll* Mutin is described. A preliminary key to the females of the Northern Palaearctic species of the *Platycheirus clypeatus* group is presented. The possibility to identify the undescribed female of *Platycheirus magadanensis* Mutin is discussed.

Key words: hover flies, taxonomy, diagnostic characters

Introduction

The genus *Platycheirus* Lepeletier & Serville is one of the largest genera of Syrphidae in the temperate zone of the Palaearctic. Male specimens are rather easy to identify because of the species' very characteristically shaped prolegs. However, *Platycheirus* females are almost absent from existing identification keys (e.g., Vockeroth 1990, 1992; Mutin & Barkalov 1999), as they rarely have distinct morphological characters. The females of the European species of the *P. peltatus* subgroup were described and separated by van Steenis & Goeldlin de Tiefenau (1998). *Platycheirus beringiensis* Barkalov & Mutin (Barkalov & Mutin 2014) and the female of *P. latens* Mutin (Barkalov & Nielsen 2009) were characterised from the northeastern Palaearctic region. The female of the Holarctic *P. modestus* Ide (Ide 1926) was described recently, together with an identification key to Nearctic female of *Platycheirus* (Young 2012). Identification keys to the females of northern European *Platycheirus*, excluding the above mentioned species, were published by Haarto & Kerppola (2007) and Bartsch *et al.* (2009).

In September 2014, Gunilla Ståhls and Elvira Rättel (both from the Finnish Museum of Natural History) undertook a field trip to the Khabarovsk region, Russian Far East, in order to collect Diptera, mainly the families Syrphidae and Platypozidae. The specimens of *Platycheirus* collected during this trip were determined by the author. The undescribed female of *Platycheirus troll* Mutin was found among these specimens and is described in this paper.

Material and methods

Vockeroth (1990) divided the Holarctic species of the genus *Platycheirus* into five groups using the morphological characters of males. One of these groups was the *albimanus* group that Vockeroth divided into subgroups, of which five occur in the Palaearctic: the *manicatus* subgroup, the *peltatus* subgroup, the *albimanus* subgroup, the *clypeatus* subgroup and the *scambus* subgroup. Bartsch *et al.* (2009) raised the status of these subgroups to groups and included the *scambus* group into the *clypeatus* group and also moved *P. parmatus* Rondani and *P. varipes* Curran to other groups. In the present work, the *P. clypeatus* group is used as established by Bartsch *et al.* (2009). The characters forming the group are based solely on the morphology of the males: face is vertical, ventrally not produced anteriorly, protibia distinctly broadened from base to or nearly to apex and basotarsomere of protarsus widened.