

Hybotidae (Diptera) of the Botanic Garden Jean Massart (Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium) with description of two new *Platypalpus* species and comments on the Red Data List

Patrick Grootaert

Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, O.D. Taxonomy and Phylogeny, Entomology, Vautier street 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. Email: pgrootaert@yahoo.co.uk
<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2149-9229>; urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:B80BC556-9087-4D0D-9D69-7FA9BE5779C4

Abstract. Ninety hybotid species are recognized in the Botanic Garden Jean Massart (Brussels), representing 52 % of the hybotids ever recorded in Belgium. Two species new to science are described: *Platypalpus massarti* sp. nov. and *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. Following species are reported for the first time in Belgium: *Drapetis infitialis* (Collin, 1961), *Platypalpus negrobovi* Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012 and *Trichina opaca* Loew, 1864. In addition, comments are given on a selected number of species: *Bicellaria intermedia* Lundbeck, 1910, *Platypalpus aurantiacus* (Collin, 1926), *Platypalpus longimanus* (Corti, 1907), *Platypalpus nanus* (Oldenberg, 1924), *Platypalpus rapidoides* Chvála, 1975, *Platypalpus subtilis* (Collin, 1926), *Stilpon subnubilus* Chvála, 1988 and on the genus *Hybos* Meigen, 1803. The holotype of *P. cryptospina* (Frey, 1909) is revised.

Only 30 species or 33% of the species present are in a ‘Safe/Low risk’ Red Data Book category meaning that the other 66% are in a more or less ‘Threatened’ category.

Keywords: biodiversity survey, Malaise trap, Hybotidae,

Introduction

The present study reports on Hybotidae examined as part of a comprehensive three-year survey of the Diptera in the Botanic Garden Jean Massart (Oudergem, Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium). This tiny botanic garden of 4.5 ha, is squeezed in between the eastern border of the city of Brussels and the Sonian forest. Nearly 2,000 plant species have been recorded in this Natura 2000 site. The area is composed of various biotopes such as humid areas with a swamp and ponds, an old orchard on dry grassland, a medicinal plants garden, an arboretum and an evolution garden. All is mixed with patches of semi natural woods.

In a previous study on the genus *Drapetis* Macquart, five species were found, including *Drapetis bruscellensis* Grootaert, 2016, a new species for science. In the present paper attention is paid to all the hybotid genera and species of special interest are commented. The Red Data Book status of the various hybotid species was examined (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001) in order to assess the value of the biodiversity in the Botanic Garden Jean Massart.

Material and methods

The present survey is based on a sampling in six sites with Malaise traps. However, the sampling in the various sites was spread over three years as is shown in Table 1. The present study is limited to Malaise trap sampling only.

The hybotid material was collected and stored in ethanol. In the listing of the records 'reg.' refers to the register number of the specimens of the Diptera from the Botanic Garden Jean Massart in the collections of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels (RBINS).

Table 1. Overview of the sampling effort per site and a summary of the habitat characteristics.

	MT1	MT2	MT3	MT4	MT5	MT6
	50°48'52.57"N 4°26'20.31"E	50°48'52.70"N 4°26'22.50"E	50°48'50.68"N 4°26'22.14"E	50°48'52.83"N 4°26'15.62"E	50°48'47.12"N 4°26'15.90"E	50°48'49.02"N 4°26'6.97"E
start	7.V.2015	7.V.2015	21.IV.2016	14-III-2017	14-III-2017	14-III-2017
end	23.III.2017	23.III.2018	14.III.2017	23.III.2018	23.III.2018	23.III.2018
years	2	3	1	1	1	1
soil	humid	humid	humid	dry	dry	swampy
	loamy	loamy	loamy	loamy	loamy	loamy-sand
exposure	partly shaded	sun exposed	shaded	shaded	sun exposed	partly shaded
biotope	border of meadow, behind compost heap	border of flowerbeds, border of hedge	inside small wood; next to heap of decomposing wood	arboretum; no or short herbaceous layer	flowered meadow in old apple orchard	close to reed bed, above small ponds

Analysis Red Data Book Data

The Red Data Book (RDB) categories used in the present study are those listed in GROOTAERT *et al.* (2001) for the Empididae *sensu lato*. At that time the empidoids (minus the Dolichopodidae) contained the Empididae, Hybotidae, Microphoridae (now as Microphorinae in the Dolichopodidae), Atelestidae and some Brachystomatidae. In this study, all species were assigned to Red Data Book categories which are based on a combination of a rarity and a trend criterion. Rarity is expressed as the proportion of the total number of UTM 5 km squares sampled in which the species have been found since 1981. The trend criterion is interpreted as the change of the species rarity between 1887-1980 and 1981-1999. A comparable number of UTM 5 km squares was investigated during the two time periods. In addition, threatening of the specific habitat where the species is living was also taken into account as a criterion for the categories. Since records from Brussels-Capital Region in which the Botanic Garden Jean Massart is situated, were included in the Red Data Book of Flanders, the RDB can be used for an assessment of the empidoids in the Botanic Garden Jean Massart.

Observations

All the hybotid flies (except those of a few missing samples) were identified that were collected during the three-year survey (from May 2015 until April 2018) at the Botanic Garden Jean Massart. This resulted in 4,192 specimens belonging to 90 species.

Annexe 1 shows an overview of the species and their occurrence in the six investigated sites (MT1 to MT6). Since site 1 (MT1) and site 2 (MT2) were respectively sampled during 2 and 3 years, the data are presented for each year separately (MT1-2015, MT1-2016; MT1-2015, MT1-2016 and MT1-2017) which allows a quick overview of the differences per year. This separation per year also illustrates the turnover of the species for each season. This is best illustrated in site 2 (MT2) where a total number of 79 species were recorded over the three-year survey. The turnover of the number of species is large: 58 species were recorded in 2015, 61 species in 2016 and 59 species in 2017. Although the number of species per year is more or less the same in MT2, the turnover per year is very high: in 2016 there were 12 species absent from 2015, but 15 were new; in 2017 there were 18 species not present in 2015 and 17 species not present in 2016.

In addition to the differences in turnover per year, there is a difference of diversity in site 1 (MT1) and site 2 (MT2), laying just 43 m opposite to each other in the evolution garden. In site 1, 41 species were recorded in 2015 while 42 species in 2016. In site 2, 58 species were recorded in 2015 and 61 species in 2016. This difference in diversity is attributed to the different insolation of the two sites. Site 1 receives direct sunlight in early morning only, while site 2 receives direct sunlight from noon until late evening. Likely, site 2 is warming up more than site 1 so that the activity of the flies is different which is reflected not only in the number of specimens sampled but also in the number of species.

Site 3 (MT3) is continuously in the shade, with an undergrowth of grasses and a huge pile of decaying wood. Only 38 hybotid species were found in this site but the largest population of *Platypalpus optivus* in the Garden was observed in this site. The population of *Platypalpus exilis* and *P. luteolus*, both yellow species, was also the largest at this site of the Garden. This is not exceptional, since these yellow species thrive in shaded conditions. On the other hand, the population of the yellow *Elaphropeza ehippiata* was very low although grasses were ample present in the undergrowth being a favourite microhabitat of *E. ehippiata*.

Site 4 (MT4) has the lowest diversity of all sites. Only 57 specimens were found belonging to 24 species. The arboretum is characterised by a partly naked soil or a very low herb layer from spring onwards. There is never direct sunlight.

Site 5 (MT5) has 44 species. In this old apple orchard, *P. aristatus* was dominant in spring and several other ubiquitous species were abundant such as *P. longicornis*, *P. pallidiventris* and *P. calceatus* amongst others.

In Site 6 (MT6) *Platypalpus pictitarsoides* sp. nov. was the dominant species with 123 specimens. It was also the site where most specimens of this species were found.

Annotated checklist with description of new species

Bicellaria intermedia Lundbeck, 1910

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♂, 1-8.VII.2015.

Additional material examined: Belgium: 1♀, Parette (prov. Luxembourg), (31UFR91), 3.VII.1980; 1♂, Vecquée (32UKB90), 10.VII.1951 (R. Tollet); 1♂, 1♀, Bihain (prov. Luxembourg), (31UGR06), 6.VI.1952 (R. Tollet); 2♂♂, Fagne des Mochettes, Samrée (31UFR96), 5.VI.1952 (R. Tollet); 5♂♂, 2♀♀, Samrée (31UFR86), 5.VI.1952 (R. Tollet); 6♂♂, 3♀♀, Franc Bois (31UFR33), 18.VI.1958 (leg. A Collart).

Bicellaria intermedia was not yet recorded from Flanders nor Brussels Region and is hence not in the Red Data Book (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001), however several specimens were recorded earlier from southern Belgium.

Drapetis infitialis (Collin, 1961)

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**: 2♂♂, 8-15.VI. 2017 (reg. 1364); **MT5**: 1♂, 22-30.VI.2017 (reg. 1130); 1♂, 19-26.VII.2017 (reg.1161).

This species which is closely related to *D. exilis*, is new for the Belgian fauna. It differs from the latter species mainly by the large tip of the right cercus (COLLIN, 1961).

Genus *Hybos* Meigen, 1803

Hybos culiciformis (Fabricius, 1775)

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT1**: 3♀♀, 13-27.X.2016 (ref. 571); **MT2**: 1♀, 26.VI-1.VII.2015 (ref. 158); 1♀, 14-28.VII.2016 (ref. 920); 1♂, 23.VIII-1.IX.2017 (ref. 1352).

Hybos femoratus (Müller, 1776)

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**: 1♀, 22.IX-12.X.2017.

During the three consecutive years of the survey, only six specimens of *Hybos culiciformis* and one specimen of *Hybos femoratus* were recorded.

Hybos culiciformis is considered as fairly common but 'Near threatened' due to a significant decline since 1981 (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001). *Hybos femoratus* is considered as 'Vulnerable' and considered as fairly 'Rare' with a strong decline of the populations. The third Belgian species *H.*

grossipes, quoted as ‘Endangered’ with a significant decline of the populations, was not found at all during the present survey.

Hybos species are predators that catch small insects in the air with their huge raptorial hind legs. Although there is a very high diversity of microhabitats with scrubs and vegetation that can be used as look-out for *Hybos* and moreover ample prey is available, the abundance is very low. It seems that the general trend of decline that was already mentioned in GROOTAERT *et al.* (2001) is continuing.

Genus *Platypalpus*

Platypalpus species are small predators that catch prey landing on leaves of the vegetation. Forty-nine species were recorded here in the Botanic Garden Jean Massart.

Platypalpus aurantiacus (Collin, 1926)

Tachydromia aurantiaca Collin, 1926: 152.

Tachydromia aurantiaca in Collin, 1961: 207, description.

Platypalpus aurantiacus (Collin, 1926) in SMITH & CHVÁLA, 1976: 139, illustration male terminalia.

Platypalpus aurantiacus (Collin, 1926) in CHVÁLA, 1989: 279, diagnosis and illustration male antenna (Fig. 12).

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT1**: 1♀, 3-9.VI.2016 (ref. 418); 1♀, 6-11.V.2016 (ref. 596); **MT2**: 1♀, 28.V-4.VI.2015 (ref. 578); 1♂, 21-28.V.2015 (ref. 584); 1♀, 21-28.V.2015 (ref. 627); 2♀♀, 13-21.V.2015 (ref. 686); 1♀, 13-21-May 2015 (ref. 745); 1♂, 6-11.V.2016 (ref. 1311); 1♀, 5-11.V.2017; 2♀♀, 17-24.V.2017 (ref. 1256); 1♂, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1268); **MT3**: 1♀, 3-9.VI.2016 (ref. 445); **MT4**: 1♂, 24.V-1.VI.2017 (ref. 1087); **MT5**: 1♀, 11-17.V.2017.

Additional material examined: Belgium: 2♀♀, Buzenol, 19.V.1981; 5♀♀, Buzenol, 2.VI.1981 (leg. P. Grootaert).

Comments.

This rare species was previously only known from the extreme South of Belgium where it was collected in a Malaise trap at the border of a deciduous forest. Here in the Botanic Garden it was found in five of the six investigated sites, always in very low numbers except in site 2 (MT2) where over the three years of sampling 11 specimens were recorded. It was not found in the marshland (MT6).

Distribution.

According to the Fauna Europaea it is recorded in Austria, Belgium, British Isles, Czech Republic, France, Germany and Hungary.

Platypalpus massarti sp. nov.

Figs 1-2

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:942C978F-D0E4-4B0D-B633-D5C34F6A7A6A

Material examined.

Holotype ♂: Belgium, Oudergem, (Brussels) Botanic Garden Jean Massart, **MT2**, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1377, RBINS); Paratype: Belgium, Oudergem, (Brussels) Botanic Garden Jean Massart, 1 ♀, **MT2**, 23.VI-1.VII.2016 (ref. 872, RBINS).



Fig. 1. *Platypalpus massarti* sp. nov., holotype male, habitus (photo Isabella Van de Velde).

Diagnosis.

A small black species (1.5-1.6 mm) with one pair of yellow vertical bristles. Antenna entirely black. Postpedicel in male 2.5 times as long as wide, in female 2 times; arista 2 times as long as postpedicel. Palpus pale yellow with long pale apical bristle. Mesoscutum dusted. Sternopleura with a shiny black patch. Acrostichals short, biserial and widely separated. Four long dorsocentrals. Legs yellow, except for mid and hind coxae brown and all legs with all tarsomeres brown annulated, apical two tarsomere entirely brown. In female apical annulation of basal tarsomeres shorter and less pronounced than in male. Fore tibia in male only weakly swollen. Mid femur with a few short pale posteroventral bristles. Mid tibia in male and female with a very short, triangular, pale brownish apical spur. Left epandrial lamella with only short marginal bristles on the left side, limited to the apical half.

Etymology.

The new species is dedicated to Prof Jean Massart, ecologist avant-la-lettre, who created 100 years ago the Botanic Garden Jean Massart that was later named after him.

Description.

Male

Length: body: 1.7 mm; wing: 1.7 mm.

Head black in ground-colour. Frons grey dusted, parallel-sided, as wide as pedicel. Face silvery grey dusted, parallel-sided, narrower than pedicel, clypeus shiny black. A pair of long yellowish vertical bristles, widely separated. Antenna entirely black. Postpedicel nearly 2.5 times as long as

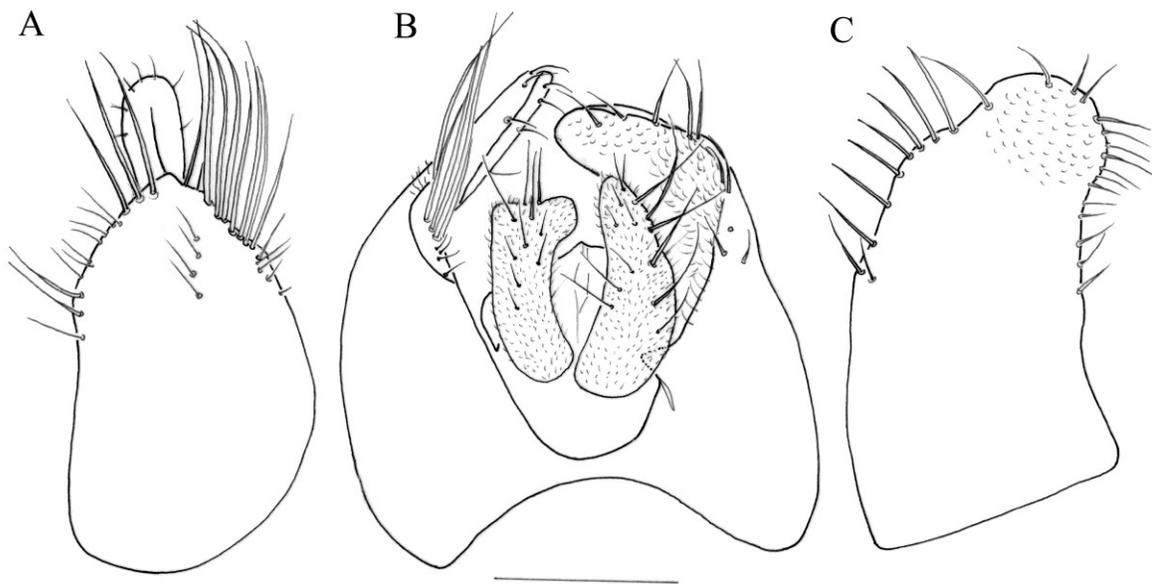


Fig. 2. *Platypalpus massarti* sp. nov., holotype male, terminalia. A, right epandrial lamella. B, epandrium dorsal. C, left epandrial lamella. Scale 0.1 mm.

deep. Arista 2 times as long as all three antennal segments together. Palpus pale yellowish, small, rounded, with a long white apical bristle longer than palpus.

Thorax. All bristles yellow. A long humeral, two long notopleurals; acrostichal bristles short, biserial, the rows widely separated. Four long dorsocentrals, the anterior longer than pedicel and bristles becoming longer towards scutellum ending in a long prescutellar; the row is preceded by a few minute bristles. Sternopleura shining black.

Legs yellow except for brown mid and hind coxae; all tarsi annulated brown, apical two tarsomeres of all tarsi entirely brown.

Fore coxa with long pale bristles. Fore femur thickened on basal half, wider than mid femur, with a row of long yellow ventral bristles, half as long as femur is wide. Fore tibia hardly spindle-shaped thickened.

Mid femur with a pale brownish anterior bristle on apical quarter, as long as femur is wide. A few yellowish posteroventral bristles, half as long as femur is wide. Mid tibia with a very short, pale brownish apical spur (half as long as tibia is deep), in dorsal view triangular.

Hind femur slender, narrower than mid femur, dorsoventrally bowed, with indistinct bristles.

Wing clear, with pale brownish veins, tip of subcostal quite swollen. Veins R4+5 and M parallel, just before ending in the costa, a little diverging. Haltere yellowish white.

Abdomen entirely black with short pale bristles. Male terminalia as in Fig. 2. Cerci small enclosed in epandrial lamellae. Right cercus in dorsal view with a broad truncate apex (Fig. 2 B). Right margin of right epandrial lamella with a few of long bristles (Fig. 2 A), near middle of the right lamella a row of 4 short bristles. Left epandrial lamella with marginal bristles on left side very short and limited to apical half (Fig. 2 C); marginal bristles on right side longer than on left side. Inside of apex of left epandrial lamella somewhat sculpted (Fig. 2 B).

Female.

Length: body: 1.6 mm; wing: 1.4 mm.

Identical to male in most characters including shape and colour of spur on mid tibia. Apical annulation of basal tarsomeres shorter and less pronounced than in male.

Comments.

Platypalpus massarti sp. nov. is found in the samples together with *P. cothurnatus* Macquart, 1827 which is also a small species with entirely black antenna and a small apical spur on the mid tibia. It can be recognized quickly by the coloration of the tarsomeres and the wing. In *P. cothurnatus* only tarsomere 4 and 5 are darkened while the basal tarsomeres are yellow. In *P. massarti* sp. nov. all the tarsomeres of all legs are brown annulated and the apical two tarsomeres entirely brown. In *P. cothurnatus* the wing is conspicuously yellow or yellowish brown clouded while in *P. massarti* sp. nov. there is no yellowish clouding at all. The apical spur in *P. cothurnatus* is nearly as long as tibia is wide and bears a tiny hair at tip in the male. The spur in *P. massarti* sp. nov. is even shorter and lacking a hair. In *P. cothurnatus*, the left epandrial lamella bears a large basal extension on the left side, bearing very long bristles (see CHVÁLA, 1975, fig. 418). In the new species, the marginal bristles on the left epandrial lamella are very short and confined only to the apical half and there is no basal protrusion at all (Fig. 2 C). A detailed diagnosis of *P. cothurnatus* can be found in CHVÁLA (1975: 166, figs 416-418; 1989: 311).

P. massarti sp. nov. belongs to a species-complex comprising *P. cryptospina* (Frey, 1909) and *P. aliterolamellatus* Kovalev, 1971 and hence these two species are dealt with in more detail here below.

Platypalpus cryptospina (Frey, 1909)

Fig. 3

Tachydromia cryptospina Frey, 1909: 8.

Tachydromia tantula Collin, 1926: 158.

Tachydromia tantula in COLLIN, 1961: 159, re-description and illustration male terminalia (Fig. 59).

Platypalpus cryptospina (Frey, 1909) in CHVÁLA, 1975: re-description and illustrations (Figs 125, 216, 419-421, 717).

Material examined.

Holotype male, Finland, Karislojo, H. Frey, Natural History Museum, Helsinki.

Male on pin, in good condition (missing a mid-leg and left antenna). The male terminalia of the holotype were not dissected so it is unlikely that the drawings of the terminalia in CHVÁLA (1975) were made of the holotype. The drawing of the left epandrial lamella (CHVÁLA, 1975: Fig. 421) fits to the holotype though the long bristles on the left basal 2/3 are even a little longer and the tips are curled and not straight as shown by CHVÁLA (see Fig. 421). In *P. massarti* sp. nov. the third antennal segment is 2.5 times as long as wide and thus longer than in *P. cryptospina*.

Platypalpus tantulus (Collin, 1926) was set synonym by CHVÁLA (1975) to *P. cryptospina*, however the bristling on the left side of the left epandrial lamella is different from CHVÁLA's (1975) drawings and those made by COLLIN (1961).



Fig. 3. *Platypalpus cryptospina* (Frey, 1909), holotype male habitus; A. detail of head with swollen fore tibiae; B. Left epandrial lamella (photo Jere Kahanpää).

To clarify this, the type material of *P. tantulus* should be re-examined. The drawings of the cerci, right and left epandrial lamellae in COLLIN (1961.) also do not correspond to *P. massarti* sp. nov.

Diagnosis.

Resembling *P. cothurnatus* but antennae with smaller third segment, dorsocentrals longer and less numerous, legs with dark annulated tarsi, very spindle-shaped fore tibiae and much shorter tibial spur.

***Platypalpus aliterolamellatus* Kovalev, 1971**

Platypalpus aliterolamellatus Kovalev, 1971. Description (in Russian); illustration left side of left epandrial lamella.

Platypalpus aliterolamellatus in CHVÁLA, 1989: 308, extended diagnosis.

This small species (1.1 – 1.4 mm) is very similar to *P. cryptospina*. The postpedicel is about 1.5 times as long as deep and the arista more than 2 times as long but the acrostichal bristles are wider apart and the legs are paler yellow including the tarsi. At most the two apical tarsomeres are brownish, no annulations are present; the posterior four coxae are yellowish. As in *P. cryptospina* the anterior four femora are equally stout and the fore tibia spindle-shaped dilated. The left border of the left epandrial lamella has very short marginal bristles in the apical third, with some longer bristles in the middle (KOVALEV, 1971: Fig. 1).

Key to the *P. cryptospina* complex

1.- Tarsi not annulated brown, at most the apical two tarsomeres brownish; mid and hind coxae not darkened *P. aliterolamellatus* Kovalev

-. All tarsi annulated brown, apical two tarsomeres almost entirely brown; mid and hind coxae brownish 2.

2.- Fore tibia hardly dilated (Fig. 1); third antennal segment in male nearly 2.5 times as long as deep; Acrostichals widely separated. Left epandrial lamella with marginal bristles on left side very short and limited to apical half (Fig. 2 C) *P. massarti* sp. nov.

-. Fore tibia distinctly spindle-shaped dilated (Fig. 3); third antennal segment about 2 times as long as deep. Acrostichals close together. Left epandrial lamella with marginal bristles on left side very long over the entire border, tips basal bristles curled (Fig. 3 B) *P. cryptospina* Frey

***Platypalpus nanus* (Oldenberg, 1924)**

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♀, 9-16.VI.2016; **MT6**, 2♂♂, 3♀♀, 24.V-1.VI.2017; 1♂, 4♀♀, 1-8.VI.2017; 1♀, 8-15.VI.2017.

Platypalpus nanus was most abundant in the swampy area (MT6) while only a single female was found during the three-year survey in site 2 (MT2).

This tiny *Platypalpus* species is mainly distributed in coastal areas in Belgium where it was found in nine localities [Blankenberge, Boerekreek, Lombardsijde (Brandaris), Doel, Knokke, Koksijde, Oostende, Raversijde and the Zwin].

It was very abundant in the Maria-Hendrika park in Oostende where a Malaise trap, placed in a wood on clayish soils, collected over two years no less than 363 specimens. Comparably, two Malaise traps placed on wet clayish soil at the base of the dunes of the domain 'Prince Karel' at Raversijde, collected over two years 390 specimens. At the moment there are only three observations of *P. nanus* outside the coastal area. A single female was found on a sand heap in the harbour of Ghent (10.VI.1951, leg. M. Bequaert, coll. RBINS), a single female in Brussels (6.VI.1933, leg. M. Bequaert, RBINS) with unknown habitat and another single female was found in an apple orchard in Gembloux (14.VI.1982, leg. C. Fassotte, RBINS). It is not excluded that the latter two females belong to other related unrecognized species.

CHVÁLA (1989) already remarked that the species is very common in Belgium and the Netherlands while he reported it also from the Czech Republic (one record), Germany and Hungary where it is rare. It is not clear which ecological factors explain the distribution of the species in central Europe, while the large abundance in certain coastal areas in Belgium seems to point to a relation with wet, clayish soils.

***Platypalpus negrobovi* Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012 versus *Platypalpus longimanus* (Corti, 1907)**

***Platypalpus negrobovi* Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012** Fig. 4.

Platypalpus negrobovi Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012: 161, illustration antenna (Fig. 1), habitus (Fig. 2), fore and mid leg (Fig. 3), male terminalia (Figs 4-5).

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♀, 9-16.VI.2016 (ref. 892); 1♀, 16-23.VI.2017 (ref. 494); 1♂, 2♀♀, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1274); 2♀♀, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1237); 1♀, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1375); 1♂, 15-22.VI.2017 (ref. 1060); **MT5**, 2♀♀, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1284); 2♀♀, 22-30.VI.2017; **MT3**, 1♀, 23.VI-1.VII.2016 (ref. 892); **MT5**, 2♀♀, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1284).

P. negrobovi was most abundant in site 2 (MT2), but was also recorded in site 3 (MT3) and 5 (MT5).

Males of the sister-species *P. negrobovi* and *P. longimanus* are quite peculiar in having a very long flattened apical tarsomere on the fore leg and the mid leg. These are unique features among representatives of the genus *Platypalpus* Macquart, 1827. SMITH (1969) gave a re-description of *P. longimanus* and illustrated the fore and mid legs of male as well as the genitalia. There is some confusion about the authorship of *P. longimanus* that has been settled by CHVÁLA (1989). Recently GROOTAERT *et al.* (2012) described *P. negrobovi* on the base of a single male from the

Caucasus although a female was found before in Belgium that was not described by the lack of a male. This female did not correspond to the description of a female *longimanus*.

The differences between the two species are ample discussed in GROOTAERT *et al.* (2012) and keyed here below.

– Stylus in male nearly as long or a little longer than postpedicel (0.9 – 1.1 times); stylus in female longer: 1.3 to 1.4 times as long as postpedicel. Postpedicel in both sexes shorter than in *P. longimanus*. Male mid tarsus with apical tarsomere as long as tarsomeres 2, 3 and 4 combined.

..... *P. negrobovi* Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012

– Stylus in male half as long as postpedicel, in female 0.6 – 0.7 times as long. Postpedicel in both sexes longer than in *P. negrobovi*. Mid tarsus with apical tarsomere as long as tarsomeres 3 and 4 together *P. longimanus* (Corti, 1907)

In the specimens studied in the present survey, the stylus in males is 1.1 times as long as postpedicel and a little longer in females ranging from 1.3 to 1.4 times as long as postpedicel.

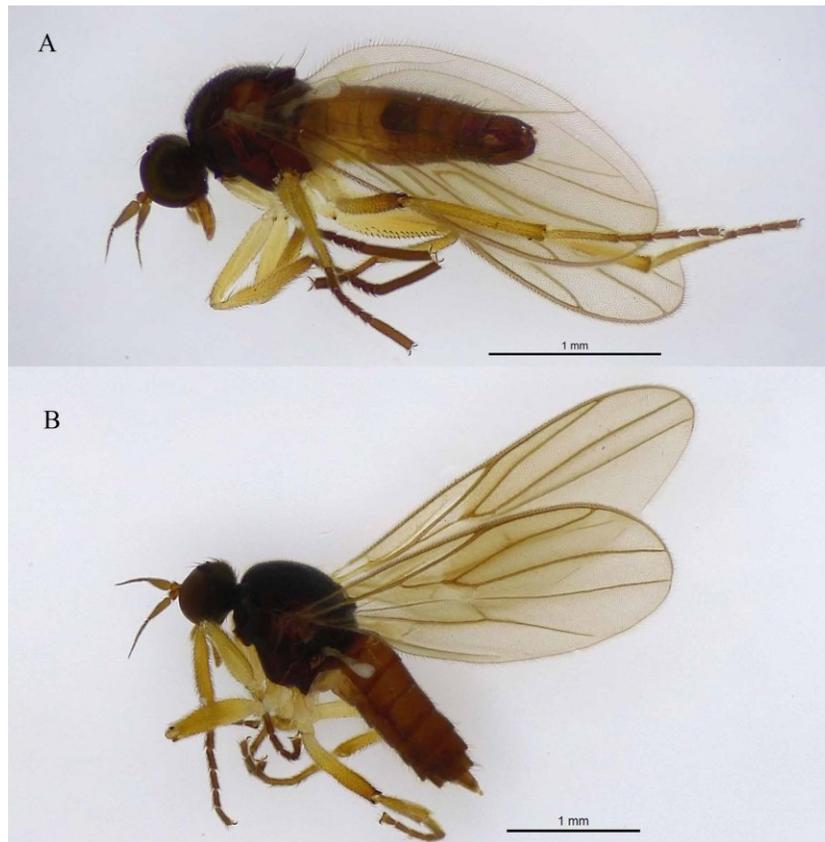


Fig. 4. *Platypalpus negrobovi* Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012. A, male habitus, Botanic Garden Jean Massart (ref. 1274, RBINS). B, female habitus (photo Isabella Van de Velde).

Platypalpus longimanus (Corti, 1907)

Fig. 5

Tachydromia longimana Corti, 1907

Tachydromia longimana Strobl, 1910

Platypalpus (*Cleptodromia*) *longimana* (Corti, 1907) in SMITH, 1969: 108, illustration fore tibia and tarsus (Fig. 1), tarsus mid leg (Fig. 2), male terminalia (Fig. 3).

Platypalpus longimanus in CHVÁLA, 1989: 257, re-description and drawing antenna male (Fig. 3), antenna female (Fig. 4), male terminalia of holotype (Figs 5-7).

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♀, 11-17.V.2017 (ref. 1046); **MT5**, 1♀, 17-24.V.2017 (ref. 1395).

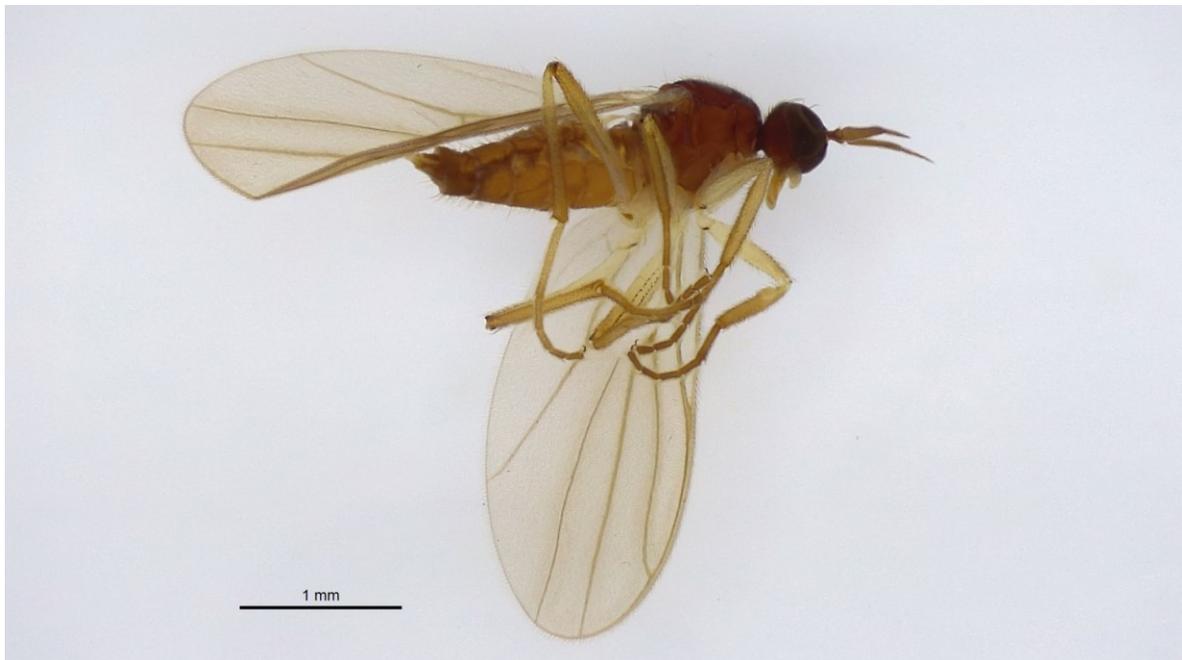


Fig. 5. *Platypalpus longimanus* (Corti, 1907), female habitus, Botanic Garden Jean Massart, ref. 1045 (RBINS) (photo Isabella Van de Velde).

The postpedicel in female *P. longimanus* is much longer than in *P. negrobovi* and the stylus is much shorter (proportion of 0.65 to 0.7 times as long as stylus).

Identification of both species is sometimes confusing since there are two pairs of black vertical bristles pressed to the cranium, a little longer than the other postocular bristles and pointing forward (not upwards like in other *Platypalpus* with 2 pairs of vertical bristles).

The fore tibiae are swollen in both sexes and the opening of the tibial gland is quite prominent.

Platypalpus pictitarsoides sp. nov.

Figs 6-8.

urn:lsid:zoobank.org:act:EA00C554-47D6-4A3F-97EE-F4232A63F336

Material examined.

Holotype ♂: Belgium, Oudergem, (Brussels) Botanic Garden Jean Massart, **MT6**, 1 – 8.VI.2017 (ref. 1194, RBINS).

Paratypes: Belgium, Oudergem, (Brussels) Botanic Garden Jean Massart, **MT6**, 1♂, 24.V-1.VI.2017 (ref. 1176); 2♀♀ 24.V-1.VI.2017 (ref. 1178); 1♀, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1357); 2♂♂, 9♀♀, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1194); 3♂♂, 42♀♀, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1207); 2♂♂, 46♀♀, 5-22.VI.2017 (ref. 1216); 7♀♀, 22-30.VI. 2017 (ref. 1321); 1♀, 26.VII-2.VIII.2017; 1♂, 1♀, 2-11.VIII.2017; 2♀, 23.VIII-1.IX.2017.

Type locality.

Audergem; Botanic Garden Jean Massart site 6 (MT6). Only the specimens of site 6, the marshland, were assigned paratype status. In total 201 specimens were found in the Garden, distributed over four sites: MT1: 41, MT2: 30, MT3: none, MT4: none, MT5: 7, MT6: 123.

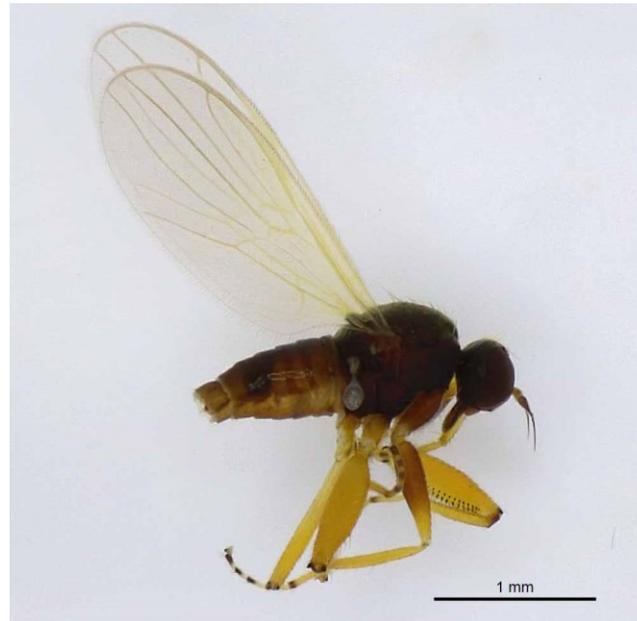


Fig. 6. *Platypalpus pictitarsoides* sp. nov., holotype male, habitus (photo Isabella Van de Velde).

Diagnosis.

A small species (1.8 – 2.2 mm) of the *pallidiventris* - *cursitans* group, closely related to *P. pictitarsis*. Clypeus dusted. Third antennal segment 2.5 times as long as deep. Palpus brown in male and female. A very short anterior notopleural present, hardly a third of the length of the 2 posterior notopleurals. Acrostichal bristles biserial, the rows distinctly separated and the bristles directed backward, not uniserial nor diverging. Legs yellow, but fore coxa and basal half of fore femur in male brownish, yellow in female. Mid and hind coxae yellow, at most dusky in male. All tarsomeres annulated black. Mid tibiae in male and female with a long pointed apical spur. Left epandrial lamella with long marginal bristles over the entire length of the outer (left) margin.

Etymology.

The species is named after its resemblance with *P. pictitarsis*.

Description.

Male.

Length: body: 1.74 – 1.9 mm: wing: 1.8 mm – 2 mm.

Head. Frons grey dusted, a little narrower than 2nd antennal segment. Face narrower than frons, silvery grey dusted, including clypeus. Basal antennal segments yellowish though somewhat reddish. Third antennal segment black, 2.5 times as long as deep, arista about 1.5 times as long as third segment. A pair of long yellowish white vertical bristles. Lower postoculars bristles longer and whitish.

Thorax grey dusted except for the black shiny spot on sternopleura. All bristles and hairs yellowish. Acrostichals biserial, the rows distinctly separated, the bristles are directed backward and hence not diverging.

Wing with clear membrane, veins pale yellowish. Cross veins well separated. Veins R₄₊₅ and M₁ running parallel up to ending in the costa. Haltere white. Squama white, set with white bristles.

Legs yellow except for the brownish fore coxa and basal half of the fore femur that are brownish (the intensity of the browning is variable). Knee fore femur with a very small black spot at both sides of the knee. Mid femur with a large black spot on both sides of the knee. Hind femur with a very small black spot at both sides of the knee. All trochanters with a small black ventral spot. All tarsomeres annulated dark brown.

Fore femur with a double row of white ventral bristles a little more than half as long as femur is wide. Fore tibia tubular, not swollen, with a number of pale brownish dorsal bristly hairs.

Mid femur stronger than fore femur, about 1.5 times wider; with white posteroventral bristles less than half as long as femur is wide. A pale anterior bristle on apical quarter. Mid tibia with a long pointed apical, as long as tibia is deep. Hind femur very narrow with a single row of pale ventral bristles over the entire length, as long as femur is deep. Hind tibia with some dorsal bristly hairs.

Abdomen. All segments brownish black. All tergites with the sides at base narrowly dusted. Male terminalia (Figs 7 – 8). Both cerci are about equally long (Fig. 7 B) The right cercus has a truncate tip while the left cercus is slender with a pointed tip lacking microtrichia at the extreme tip. In lateral view the left cercus bears a large, inner protrusion (Fig. 8 H). The right epandrial lamella has a median protrusion of the right border (Fig. 7 A) and the right border is set with short bristles only. Some striae run over the median part of the right epandrial lamella. The left epandrial lamella is broad and the left margin is entirely set with long bristles. The apical bristles are interspaced while the basal bristles are densely set, some are bifurcate close their base and the tips are often somewhat curled. The aedeagal complex bears two black rod-like and denticulate structures (Fig. 8 I).

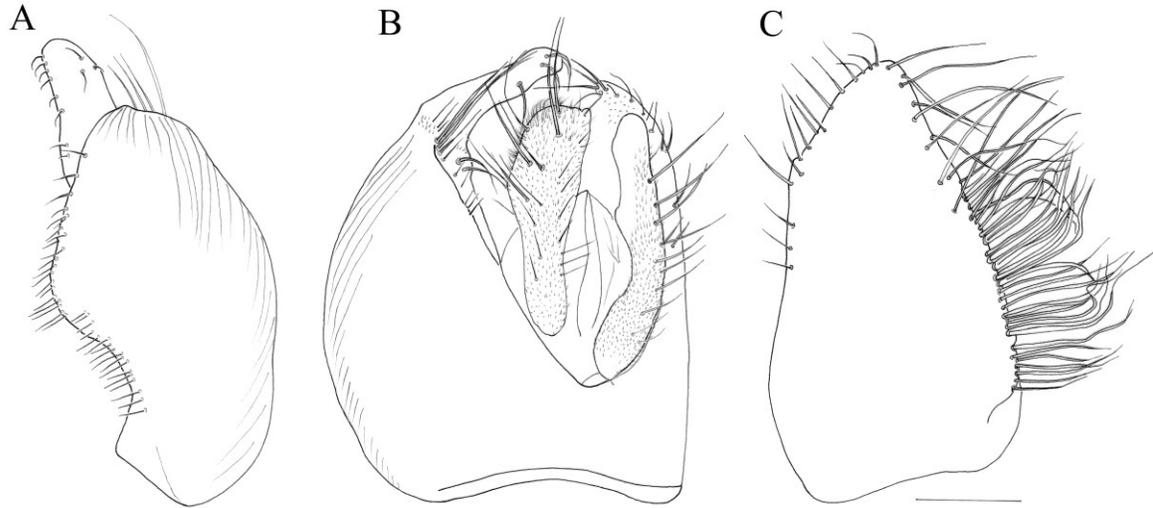


Fig. 7. *Platypalpus pictitarsoides* sp. nov., holotype male, terminalia. A, right epandrial lamella; B, epandrium dorsal. C, left epandrial lamella. Scale 0.1 mm.

Female.

Length: body: 2 – 2.4 mm, wing: 1.9 – 2.2 mm.

Resembling male in most characters. Legs entirely yellow, including mid and hind coxae.

Ovipositor about as long as third antennal segment.

Comments.

The general morphology of *Platypalpus pictitarsoides* sp. nov. and especially the structure of the male terminalia show that the species is closely related to *P. pictitarsis* and *P. kirtlingensis* (Fig. 8 A, D-E). However, *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. has the rows of biserial acrostichals well separated and not on almost one line with diverging bristles like in the former species. The new species has only a tiny anterior notopleural bristle in front of the longer posterior notopleurals bristles which can easily be overlooked or considered as simple pubescence. This may lead to some confusion when using the key of GROOTAERT & CHVÁLA (1992).

The presence of a tiny anterior notopleural bristle and the fore and hind tibiae with distinct bristly dorsal hairs brings the new species to couplet 141 in the key GROOTAERT & CHVÁLA (1992). The following key is simplified.

- 1.- Anterior notopleural bristle strong, nearly as long as posterior notopleurals. Ovipositor much longer than all antennal segments together *P. pallidiventris* (Meigen) and *P. longiseta* (Zetterstedt)
- . Anterior notopleural bristle smaller and finer, at most half as long as posterior notopleural bristles. Ovipositor about as long as all antennal segments together. 2.

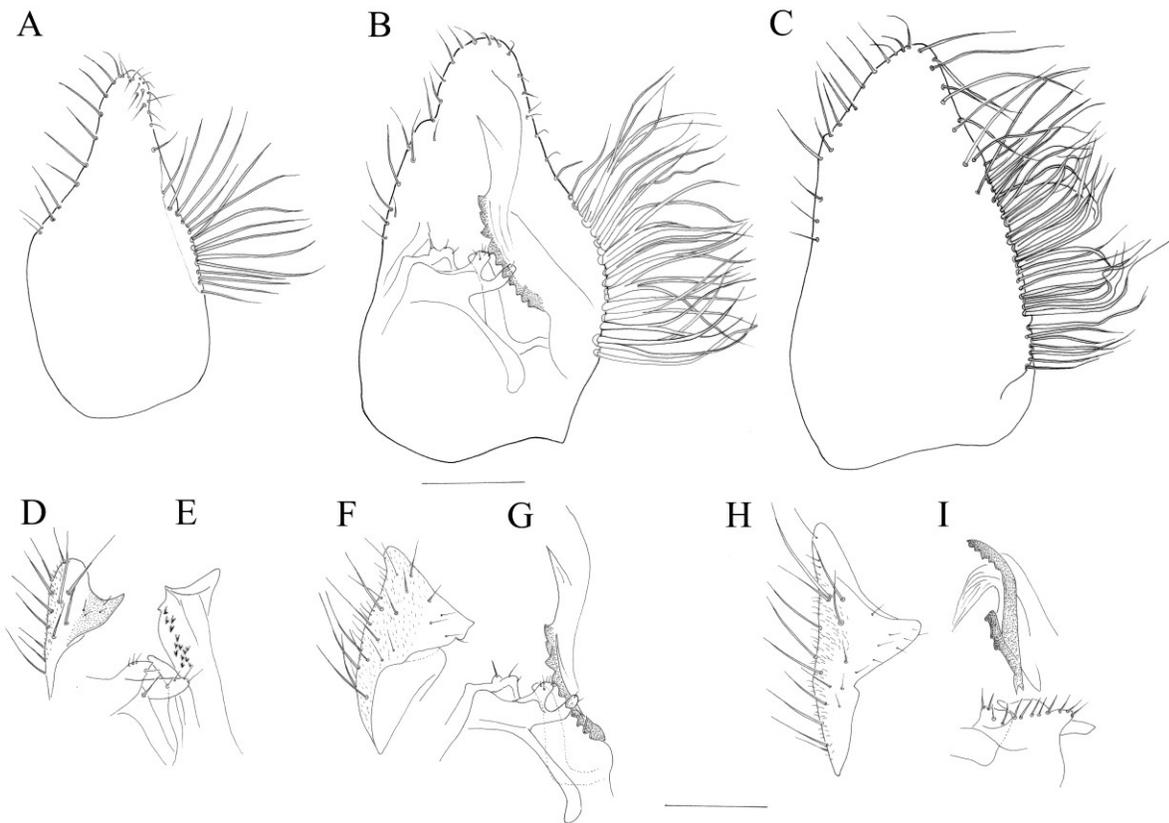


Fig. 8. Comparison of left epandrial lamella (A-C), left cercus in lateral view (D, F, H) and aedeagal complex (E, G, I) between *P. kirtlingensis*, *P. pictitarsis* and *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. A, *P. kirtlingensis* (paratype, France, St. Cyr en Archies, 1985). B, *P. pictitarsis* (France, St. Cyr en Archies, 1985) with the indication of the position of the aedeagal complex and the inner structures on the left epandrial. C, *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. (paratype, Oudergem, ref. 1176). D-E, *P. kirtlingensis*. F-G, *P. pictitarsis*. H-I, *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. Scale:0.1 mm.

2.- The rows of acrostichal bristles distinctly separated and directed backward and hence not diverging. Left epandrial lamella with a row of long bristles on the entire outer (left) margin (Fig. 7 C; Fig. 8 C) *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov.

-. Acrostichals bristles closely bi-serial, almost alternating on one row and strongly diverging. Left epandrial lamella with short marginal bristles on apical part while the long bristles are confined to the central part of the outer margin (Fig. 8 A, B) 3.

3.- All coxae and trochanters black (fore coxa apically pale in female); fore femur more or less blackish on basal half, tarsi with sharp black annulations. Palpus brownish-black in both sexes. Left epandrial lamella rather blunt at tip and wider (Fig. 8 B), outer (left) side with very long, bifurcated bristles *P. pictitarsis* (Becker)

-. Legs yellow including all coxae and the annulated black tarsi. Palpus yellow in male, dusky in female. Left epandrial lamella apically narrowed and rather pointed, outer (left) margin with less numerous, shorter and simple bristles (Fig. 8 A) *P. kirtlingensis* Grootaert

Comparison of the male terminalia in *P. kirtlingensis*, *P. pictitarsis*, *P. pictitarsoides* sp. nov. (Fig. 8).

Without preparation of the male terminalia, the three species can already be recognized by the shape of the left epandrial lamella. The apex of the left epandrial lamella is quite slender in *P. kirtlingensis* while broader in *P. pictitarsis* and even broader in *P. pictitarsoides*. In *P. pictitarsis* the long marginal bristles on the left side are confined to the basal half, while in *P. pictitarsoides* even on the apical half there are very long marginal bristles present, but more interspaced than at the base. In *P. kirtlingensis* there is a bundle of long bristles, less dense than in the other two species. Moreover, the bristles are simple and not forked.

The tip of the left cercus, more particularly the inward directed apical protrusion is also different. Removal and clearing of the terminalia is generally needed to observe this structure that is laying below the left epandrial lamella in lateral view. In *P. kirtlingensis* (Fig. 8 D) the protrusion is pointed, brownish and directed upward. In *P. pictitarsis* the tip of the left cercus resembles a cap (Fig. 8 G). In *P. pictitarsoides*, the tip of the left cercus is elongated (Fig. 7 B, dorsal view) and lacks microtrichia at the extreme tip (Fig. 8 H). The inward directed protrusion has a different shape than the two other species (Fig. 8 H).

The aedeagal complex is also different. The position of the different parts is illustrated in a lateral view Fig. 8 B, beneath the left epandrial lamella. In *P. kirtlingensis* (Fig. 8 D) the denticulated part consist of a few scattered downward directed denticles. The denticles are more robust and inserted on a dark sclerotized sclerite in *P. pictitarsis*, while in *P. pictitarsoides* there are two separated denticulate sclerotizations, with denticles less strong than in *P. pictitarsis*.

The inner structures on the left epandrial lamella are not well understood. However, there are many differences between the different species. In *P. pictitarsis* the transverse rod-like structure ends in fork each bearing a few tiny apical hairs (Fig. 8 G). In *P. pictitarsoides* this rod-like structure is apically not forked and bears a row of hairs all along the apical side (Fig. 8 I). The structure of the transverse rod-like structure is comparable in *P. kirtlingensis* though the apical row of hairs is limited to a few scattered hairs (Fig. 8 E).

Comparison with *P. stabilis* (Collin, 1961) and *P. annulitarsis* Kovalev, 1978.

Both *P. stabilis* and *P. annulitarsis* lack an anterior notopleural bristle, but have similar male terminalia as in *P. pictitarsoides*. The male terminalia of *P. stabilis* (Collin, 1961) do resemble somewhat those of *P. pictitarsoides* in that the outer marginal bristles of the left epandrial lamella are long along the entire margin. However, the tarsi in *P. stabilis* are faintly brownish annulated and darker on the apical two tarsomeres. In *P. pictitarsoides* they are equally annulated black. The third antennal segment is about twice as long as deep, black with yellow base. The third antennal segment is 2.5 times as long as deep and entirely black in *P. pictitarsoides*.

Platypalpus annulitarsis Kovalev, 1978 is also a small species (less than 2 mm in body length) that resembles *P. pictitarsoides*. It has a polished clypeus. The apical half of the third antennal

segment is black and the base yellow. The male has a long, blunt-tipped apical spur on the mid tibia which is pointed in the female. In *P. pictitarsoides* the mid tibial spur is pointed in both sexes. The left epandrial lamella is indented on its outer margin and the basal part is protruding with several rows of very long bristles. The outer margin of the left epandrial lamella is not indented and the basal part is not protruding in *P. pictitarsoides*. In addition, the right epandrial lamella is on the basal half of the right (outer) margin set with long bristles. In *P. pictitarsoides* there are only very short bristles all along the outer margin (Fig. 7 A).

***Platypalpus pictitarsis* (Becker, 1902)**

Fig. 8 B, F, G.

Platypalpus ruficornis Macquart, 1850 (non von Roser, 1840): 97.

Tachydromia pictitarsis Becker, 1902: 44.

Tachydromia pictitarsis Becker, 1902 in COLLIN, 1961: 168, re-description and illustration male terminalia (Fig. 62).

Platypalpus pictitarsis (Becker, 1902) in GROOTAERT, 1986: 190, re-description and illustration antenna, fore leg, male terminalia (Figs 8-13).

Platypalpus pictitarsis (Becker, 1902) in CHVÁLA, 1989: 349, diagnosis.

Platypalpus pictitarsis (Becker, 1902) in GROOTAERT & CHVÁLA, 1992: 175, diagnosis and illustration antenna, fore leg, male terminalia (Figs 190-195).

As can be seen in the synonym list above, *Platypalpus pictitarsis* was several times subject of discussion. COLLIN (1961) clearly indicated variability of the characters which led to the later description of *P. kirtlingensis* Grootaert, 1986. COLLIN (l.c.) was hesitant of the distinction of the two species and in fact he illustrated the left epandrial lamella (Fig. 62) from *P. kirtlingensis* while the description is from *P. pictitarsis*. DNA barcoding might be a useful tool to elucidate the genetic differences hopefully corroborating the morpho-species as we identify them now.

***Platypalpus rapidoides* Chvála, 1975**

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT1**: 1♂, 1♀, 23.VI-1.VII.2016 (ref. 1316); **MT2**: 1♀, 21-28.V.2015 (ref. 623); 1♀, 4-10.VI.2015 (ref. 340); **MT6**: 1♂, 1-8.VI.2017 (ref. 1197).

A rare species often found together with *P. rapidus* (Meigen). *P. rapidus* has the fore coxa and femur yellow, while they are black in *P. rapidoides*. The acrostichals are quadri-serial in *P. rapidus* while irregularly six-serial in *P. rapidoides*.

***Platypalpus subtilis* (Collin, 1926)**

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT1**: 1♀, 6-12.VIII.2015 (ref. 131); **MT2**: 1♀, 28.VII-4.VIII.2016 (ref. 980); **MT3**: 1♀, 1-6.VII.2016; 1♀ (ref. 945); 1♀, 6-14.VII.2016; **MT5**:

1♀, 30.VI-6.VII.2017 (ref. 1330); **MT6**: 1♀, 24.V-1.VI.2017 (ref. 1181); 1♀, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1205).

Additional material examined: Belgium: 1♀, Gomery, 21.V.1981; 1♀, Ottiginies, 1.VIII.1981; 1♀, 15.VIII.1981; 1♀, 29.VIII.1981; 1♀, Buzenol, 16.VI.1981; 1♀, 30.VI.1981; 1♀, 28.VII.1981; 1♀ 11.VIII.1981.

An enigmatic species known from only seven females in the Botanic Garden. The eight earlier records of this species from the South of Belgium are also females. Probably confused with other species. To our knowledge, there are no figures of the male terminalia available.

***Trichina opaca* Loew, 1864**

Trichina opaca Loew, 1864: 40.

Trichina picipes Tuomikoski, 1935: 99.

Trichina opaca Loew, 1864 in CHVÁLA, 1983: 130 and illustrations (Figs 231, 232, 249-254).

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♀, 8-15.VI.2017 (ref. 1201).

Comments.

Using the key of CHVÁLA (1983), the female found here at the Botanic Garden leads to *T. opaca* in having the anterior part of the mesoscutum covered with microtrichia. The third antennal segment is broader and much shorter than in *T. elongata* and the stylus is about half as long as the third segment. According to CHVÁLA (l.c.) the female is much paler than the male which would fit to the female found here. Males are needed to confirm the presence of this species in Belgium.

Distribution.

According to the Fauna Europaea, *T. opaca* is recorded from the British Isles, Central European Russia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland. Its occurrence in Belgium was thus expected.

***Stilpon subnubilus* Chvála, 1988**

Material examined.

Oudergem, Botanic Garden Jean Massart: **MT2**, 1♂, 12-20.VIII.2015; 1♀, 24.XI-20.XII.2016 (ref. 401).

The species was recently reported from The Netherlands (BELGERS *et al.*, 2021). It is very closely related to *S. moroccensis* GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2021.

Discussion

In the present three-year survey of the Botanic Garden Jean Massart, 90 hybotid species were found, representing about 52 % of the species ever recorded in Belgium (GROOTAERT, 1991; GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001).

The species accumulation curve (Fig. 9) calculated with the programme EstimateS (COLWELL (2013) shows the relation between number of sampling sites/seasons and number of species. The total number of species observed is 90 while the predictions Chao1 predicts 99 species, Bootstrap 97 species and Jackknife 103 species. The number of singletons and doubletons are clearly descending.

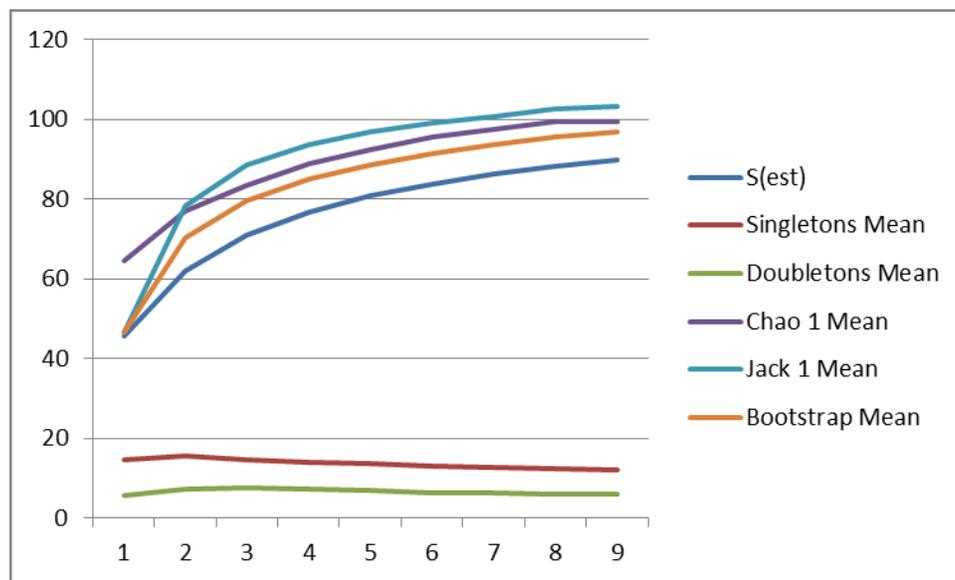


Fig. 9. Species accumulation curve calculated with the programme EstimateS (COLWELL (2013)). Relation between number of sampling sites/seasons (9) and number of species.

Analysis of the RDB data

Annexe 2 shows the alphabetic list of the hybotid species found at the Botanic Garden Jean Massart with their Red Data Book status, while Annexe 3 shows the list of the Red Data Book status with the species assigned to them from highly threatened species to Safe/Low risks species. Table 2 gives a summary of the number of species per RDB category (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001).

Table 2. Summary of the number of species per RDB category.

RDB category	nr species
0. Extinct	2
1. Critically endangered	0
2. Endangered	2
3. Vulnerable	1
4. Susceptible	34
5. Near threatened	1
6. Safe/Low risk	32
7. Data deficient	18

Two species that were supposed to be ‘Extinct’ in Flanders and Brussels, were recorded here in the Botanic Garden: *Platypalpus pseudorapidus* Kovalev, 1971 and *Trichina bilobata* Collin, 1926. It is clear that these two species should be removed from this category and be placed in the category 1 ‘Critically endangered’ species.

No species belonging to the category ‘Critically endangered’ were found, while two species belong to the category ‘Endangered’ and one species is considered ‘Vulnerable’. On the other hand, one third of the species, more precisely 34 species, are considered as ‘Susceptible’. This category groups species that are uncommon but for which no significant recent decrease in geographical distribution could be demonstrated. It also groups species from rare habitats.

Another third of the species (32 species) are considered to be ‘Safe/Low risk’. Finally, 18 species are considered as ‘Data deficient’ which means that no trend of decline is visible, simply because they have not been observed before the pivot date of 1980 and hence the percentage observed before and after 1980 cannot be calculated. In addition, these species were not observed in threatened habitats which would put them otherwise automatically in a threatened category. In reality, most of these species are rare and even when more surveys would be available, it is likely that they would not belong to the ‘Safe/Low risk’ category.

Since its publication in 2001, the Red Data Book on empidids (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001) has not been updated nor the data collected since 2001 up to present have been re-calculated nor re-evaluated. Nevertheless, the low percentage of 30% ‘Safe/Low risk’ species is an indication that there is a high number species in the Botanic Garden that are in one way or another threatened species. We are well aware of the main criticisms of Red Data Books that sampling efforts are never sufficient and that they do not reflect the exact condition of the population. According to HEIJERMAN & TURIN (1998), the results are therefore arbitrary. These arguments are valid but it must also be recognised that there is an urgent need for properly processed data, and that such data, even if incomplete, may reveal real patterns. Site quality assessments are preferably based on a combination of species' richness, abundance, rarity and vulnerability estimates of as many biota as possible. As reliable data on rarity and vulnerability are almost entirely restricted to Red

Data Books, it seems evident that only organisms which have been investigated in this respect can be used in these assessment studies.

Acknowledgements

The present paper is an output of the project 'Objective 1000', commissioned by Brussels Environment. Sincere thanks go to Mr Alain Drumont and Mr Hugo Raemdonck (RBINS) for the weekly collecting of the samples. The enthusiastic and very helpful support of the staff of the Botanic Garden Jean Massart, especially the help of Mr Thierry Bruffaerts, is also much appreciated. Isabella Van de Velde (RBINS) and Jere Kahanpää (LUOMUS) helped with the photos.

References

- BELGERS J.D.M., BEUK P., VAN DER WEELE R. & PRIJS J., 2021. - *Stilpon subnubilus*: een nieuwe bocheldansvlieg voor Nederland (Diptera: Hybotidae). *Entomologische Berichten*, 81: 21-24.
- CHVÁLA M., 1975. - The Tachydromiinae (Dipt. Empididae) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna entomologica Scandinavica*, 3: 336 pp. Klampenborg, Denmark.
- CHVÁLA M., 1983. - The Empidoidea (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. II. General Part. The families Hybotidae, Atelestidae and Microphoridae. *Fauna entomologica scandinavica*, 12: 279 pp.
- CHVÁLA M., 1988. - A new species of *Stilpon* loew (Dipt., Hybotidae) related to *S. nubilus* Collin from England and western Europe. *Entomologist's monthly magazine*, 124: 255–231.
- CHVÁLA M., 1989. - Monograph of northern and central European species of *Platypalpus* (Diptera, Hybotidae), with data on the occurrence in Czechoslovakia. *Acta Universitatis Carolinae - Biologica*, 32: 209-376.
- COLLIN J.E., 1961. - Empididae. In: British Flies. Vol. 6. University Press, Cambridge. 782 pp.
- COLWELL R.K., 2013. - EstimateS: Statistical estimation of species richness and shared species from samples. Version 9. <http://purl.oclc.org/estimates> (Accessed 22 November 2013).
- GROOTAERT P., 2016. - *Drapetis bruscellensis* (Diptera: Hybotidae) a new species for science from the outskirts of Brussels, a not so cryptic species supported by COI barcoding. *Belgian Journal of Entomology*, 41: 1-14.
- GROOTAERT P. & CHVÁLA M., 1992. - Monograph of the genus *Platypalpus* (Diptera: Empidoidea, Hybotidae) of the Mediterranean region and the Canary Islands. *Acta Universitatis Carolinae - Biologica*, 36 (1-2): 226 pp, 262 figs.

GROOTAERT P., KUSTOV S.Yu. & SHAMSHEV, I.V., 2012. - *Platypalpus negrobovi* a new species of the family Hybotidae (Diptera: Empidoidea) from the North-West Caucasus. *Caucasian entomological Bulletin*, 8: 161-163.

GROOTAERT P., POLLET M. & MAES D., 2001. - A Red Data Book of empidid flies of Flanders (northern Belgium) (Diptera, Empididae s.l.): Constraints and possible use in nature conservation. *Journal of Insect Conservation*, 5: 117-129.

GROOTAERT P., ZOUHAIR L. & KETTANI K., 2021. - A new species of the genus *Stilpon* Loew, 1859 from Morocco (Diptera: Empidoidea, Hybotidae). *Belgian Journal of Entomology*, 113: 1-12.

HEIJERMAN T. & TURIN H., 1998. - The Red Data Lists: sense or nonsense? *Entomologische Berichten*, 58: 92-104.

KOVALEV V.G., 1971. - New European species of the genus *Platypalpus* Macq. (Diptera, Empididae) *Entologicheskoe Obozrenie*, 50: 200-213.

SMITH K.V.G., 1969. - *Platypalpus (Cleptodromia) longimana* Corti, New to Britain and the male of *P. altera* (Collin) (Dipt., Empididae). *Entomologist's Monthly Magazine*, 105: 108-110.

Annexe 1. Overview of the number of species per site/per year. Site 1 (MT1) and site 2 (MT2) were respectively sampled during 2 and 3 years, the data are presented for each year separately (MT1-2015, MT1-2016; MT1-2015, MT1-2016 and MT1-2017). Site 3 (MT3) was only sampled in 2016 while sites 4, 5 and 6 (MT4, MT5 and MT6) were only sampled in 2017.

species	MT1-2015	MT1-2016	MT2-2015	MT2-2016	MT2-2017	MT3	MT4	MT5	MT6	Total
Bicellaria intermedia			1							1
Bicellaria sulcata	5	13	2	2	1	3				26
Bicellaria vana	1	5	1	1	4		3	11		26
Crossopalpus abditus									1	1
Crossopalpus humilis							1			1
Crossopalpus minimus	1		1		2			3		7
Crossopalpus nigrifellus					1		2	1		4
Drapetis arcuata				1						1
Drapetis assimilis			2		11			8	9	30
Drapetis bruceellensis			8	2	6					17
Drapetis exilis		1	5	6	28			1	3	44
Drapetis infitalis		1	1	1	2				2	7
Drapetis parilis	3	4	38	54	93	5	1	6	9	213
Drapetis pusilla	1		6	5	9				4	26
Drapetis simulans	1		1							2
Elaphropeza ephippiata	15	3	43	39	32	7	2	38	19	198
Euthyneura myrtilli	19	12	35	26	28	2	1	32	12	167
Hybos culiciformis		3	1	1	1					6
Hybos femoratus					1					1
Leptozepe borealis			1							1
Leptozepe flavipes	1		4	4	2	1			1	13
Oedalea apicalis	1		1		4					7
Oedalea flavipes	2	2	4	8	2	7	1			26
Oedalea holmgreni	3	1	22	5		2				33
Oedalea hybotina		1			3				1	5
Oedalea stigmatella	4		2	1	1					8
Oedalea tibialis	4	4	1	10	5	2		1	1	28
Oedalea zetterstedti	17	4	1	11	6	9	1	3	3	55
Platypalpus agilis		3	1	2	2					8
Platypalpus albicornis	1	1	3		4	1				10
Platypalpus albiseta		2			1			1		4
Platypalpus annulatus				9	13		1	1	11	35
Platypalpus annulipes	5	16	19	82	73	18		13	4	230
Platypalpus aristatus	7	4	57	29	36	4	2	86		225
Platypalpus articulatooides	1	1	19	6	4		1	16		48
Platypalpus articulatulus			1							1
Platypalpus aurantiacus		2	6	1	4	1	1	1		16
Platypalpus australominutus	2		1							3
Platypalpus calceatus	16	2	63	38	54	24		22	5	224
Platypalpus candicans					1	2			14	17
Platypalpus ciliaris						1				1
Platypalpus clarandus		8	11	12						31
Platypalpus cothurnatus	19	29	63	77	62	21	1	9	26	307
Platypalpus covatus		1	1	10		10				22
Platypalpus dessarti		1		1	1			1	1	5
Platypalpus divisus	1			2	1				4	8
Platypalpus exilis	1	7	10	9	2	39	3	2		73
Platypalpus interstinctus	1			4						5
Platypalpus kirtlingensis		5		9						14
Platypalpus laticinctus								1		1
Platypalpus leucocephalus						1		1		2
Platypalpus longicornis	27	56	35	13	28	13	11	76	7	266
Platypalpus longimanus			1		1					2
Platypalpus longiseta	5	7	9	13	12	12	5	5	14	82
Platypalpus luteooides			3					1		4
Platypalpus luteolus	15	52	3	44	43	55	1	44	38	295
Platypalpus maculipes		1								1
Platypalpus massarti				1	1					2
Platypalpus minutus	5		5	8	10	1		6	4	39
Platypalpus nanus				1					10	11
Platypalpus negrobovi				3	9	1		2		15
Platypalpus niger			2	1	5				2	10
Platypalpus notatus	2		5	2		1				12
Platypalpus optivus		8	1	6	6	132	1	12	2	168
Platypalpus pallidiventris	13	18	33	50	45	26	5	46	28	264
Platypalpus pallipes	1		5	2	8	1		15	3	35
Platypalpus pectoralis	4	1	12	11	2	22	1	3		56
Platypalpus pictitarsis	1		1	3		1				6
Platypalpus pictitarsoides	1	40		10	20			7	123	201
Platypalpus praecinctus				2		1				3
Platypalpus pseudofulvipes		2	11	6	22				27	68
Platypalpus pseudorapidus					2			1		3
Platypalpus pulicarius									6	6
Platypalpus rapidooides		2	2						1	5
Platypalpus rapidus		1		1					1	3
Platypalpus stabilis	4		29	8	10		1	1		53
Platypalpus subtilis	1			1		2		1	2	7
Stilpon subnubilus			1	1						2
Symbalioptthalmus fuscitarsis			1	1	3			1		6
Tachydromia aemula									4	4
Tachydromia annulimana	1			1	4	6		6	2	20
Tachydromia arrogans									2	2
Tachydromia smithi									1	1
Tachydromia umbrarum				2	5					7
Tachyzepe nubila	10	1	5	2	5	15		8	7	53
Trichina bilobata		1		1	3		1	8	24	38
Trichina clavipes	4	7	4	1	9	5	1		4	35
Trichina elongata	15	10	7	22	24	2	9	32	9	130
Trichina opaca									1	1
Trichinomyia flavipes		2	1	15	3	11				32
Total number of specimens	241	344	613	700	780	467	57	543	447	4192
number of species	41	42	58	61	59	38	24	44	44	90
total number per site	58			79			38	24	44	44

Annexe 2. Alphabetic list of the hybotid species found at the Botanic Garden Jean Massart with their Red Data Book status.

species name	sites						Red Data cat. 2001	
	MT1	MT2	MT3	MT4	MT5	MT6		Total
<i>Bicellaria intermedia</i> Lundbeck, 1910		1					1	7. Data deficient
<i>Bicellaria sulcata</i> (Zetterstedt, 1842)	18	5	3				26	4. Susceptible
<i>Bicellaria vana</i> Collin, 1926	6	6		3	11		26	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Crossopalpus abditus</i> Kovalev, 1972						1	1	4. Susceptible
<i>Crossopalpus humilis</i> (Frey, 1913)				1			1	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Crossopalpus minimus</i> (Meigen, 1838)	1	3			3		7	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Crossopalpus nigritellus</i> (Zetterstedt, 1842)		1	2	1			4	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Drapetis arcuata</i> Loew, 1859		1					1	7. Data deficient
<i>Drapetis assimilis</i> (Fallén, 1815)		13			8	9	30	4. Susceptible
<i>Drapetis bruceellensis</i> Grootaert, 2016		16				1	17	7. Data deficient
<i>Drapetis exilis</i> Meigen, 1822	1	39			1	3	44	7. Data deficient
<i>Drapetis infitialis</i> (Collin, 1961)	1	4			2		7	7. Data deficient
<i>Drapetis parilis</i> Collin, 1926	7	185	5	1	6	9	213	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Drapetis pusilla</i> Loew, 1859	1	20			4	1	26	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Drapetis simulans</i> Collin, 1961	1	1					2	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Elaphropeza ephippiata</i> (Fallén, 1815)	18	114	7	2	38	19	198	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Euthyneura myrtilli</i> Macquart, 1836	31	89	2	1	32	12	167	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Hybos culiciformis</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	3	3					6	5. Near threatened
<i>Hybos femoratus</i> (Müller, 1776)	1						1	3. Vulnerable
<i>Leptopeza borealis</i> Zetterstedt, 1842	1						1	7. Data deficient
<i>Leptopeza flavipes</i> (Meigen, 1820)	1	10	1			1	13	4. Susceptible
<i>Oedalea apicalis</i> Loew, 1859	1	5				1	7	7. Data deficient
<i>Oedalea flavipes</i> Zetterstedt, 1842	4	14	7	1			26	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Oedalea holmgreni</i> Zetterstedt, 1852	4	27	2				33	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Oedalea hybotina</i> (Fallén, 1816)	1	3				1	5	4. Susceptible
<i>Oedalea stigmatella</i> Zetterstedt, 1842	4	4					8	4. Susceptible
<i>Oedalea tibialis</i> Macquart, 1827	8	16	2	1	1		28	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Oedalea zetterstedti</i> Collin, 1926	21	18	9	1	3	3	55	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus agilis</i> (Meigen, 1822)	3	5					8	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus albicornis</i> (Zetterstedt, 1842)	2	7	1				10	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus albiseta</i> (Panzer, 1806)	2	1			1		4	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus annulata</i> (Fallén, 1815)		22		1	1	11	35	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus annulipes</i> (Meigen, 1822)	21	174	18		13	4	230	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus aristatus</i> (Collin, 1926)	11	122	4	2	86		225	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus articulatoideus</i> (Frey, 1918)	2	29		1	16		48	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus articulatus</i> Macquart, 1827	1						1	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus aurantiacus</i> (Collin, 1926)	2	11	1	1	1		16	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus australaminutus</i> Grootaert, 1989	2	1					3	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus caecaeus</i> (Meigen, 1822)	18	155	24		22	5	224	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus candicans</i> (Fallén, 1815)	1	2				14	17	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus caroli</i> Grootaert, 1987			1				1	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus ciliaris</i> (Fallén, 1816)	8	23					31	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus cothurnatus</i> Macquart, 1827	48	202	21	1	9	26	307	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus covatus</i> (Zetterstedt, 1842)	1	11	10				22	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus dessarti</i> Grootaert, 1983	1	3			1	1	5	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus divinus</i> Walker, 1851	1	3			4		8	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus exilis</i> (Meigen, 1822)	8	21	39	3	2		73	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus interstinctus</i> (Collin, 1926)	1	4					5	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus kirtlingensis</i> Grootaert, 1986	5	9					14	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus laticinctus</i> Walker, 1851					1		1	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus leucecephalus</i> (von Roser, 1840)			1				2	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus longicornis</i> (Meigen, 1822)	83	76	13	11	76	7	266	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus longimanus</i> (Corti, 1907)	2						2	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus longiseta</i> (Zetterstedt, 1842)	12	34	12	5	5	14	82	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus luteoloides</i> Grootaert, 1983	3						4	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus luteolus</i> (Collin, 1926)	67	90	55	1	44	38	295	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus maculipes</i> (Meigen, 1822)	1						1	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus massarti</i> sp. nov.		2					2	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus minutus</i> (Meigen, 1804)	5	23	1		6	4	39	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus nanus</i> (Oldenberg, 1924)	1					10	11	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus negrobavi</i> Grootaert, et al., 2012	12	1			2		15	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus niger</i> (Meigen, 1804)	8					2	10	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus notatus</i> (Meigen, 1822)	2	7	1			2	12	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus optivus</i> (Collin, 1926)	8	13	132	1	12	2	168	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus pallidiventris</i> (Meigen, 1822)	31	128	26	5	46	28	264	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus pallipes</i> (Fallén, 1815)	1	15	1		15	3	35	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus pectoralis</i> (Fallén, 1815)	5	25	22	1	3		56	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Platypalpus pictitarsis</i> (Becker, 1902)	1	4	1				6	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus pictitarsoides</i> sp. nov.	41	30			7	123	201	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus praecinctus</i> (Collin, 1926)		2	1				3	2. Endangered
<i>Platypalpus pseudoflavipes</i> Frey, 1909	2	39				27	68	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus pseudorapidus</i> Kovalev, 1971		2			1		3	0. Extinct
<i>Platypalpus pulcarius</i> (Meigen, 1830)						6	6	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus rapidoides</i> Chvála, 1975	2	2				1	5	7. Data deficient
<i>Platypalpus rapidus</i> (Meigen, 1822)		2				1	3	2. Endangered
<i>Platypalpus stabilis</i> (Collin, 1961)	4	47		1	1		53	4. Susceptible
<i>Platypalpus subtilis</i> (Collin, 1926)	1	1	2		1	2	7	7. Data deficient
<i>Stilpon subnubilus</i> Chvála, 1988		2					2	7. Data deficient
<i>Symbolophthalmus fuscitarsis</i> (Zetterstedt, 1859)		5			1		6	4. Susceptible
<i>Tachydromia aemula</i> (Loew, 1864)						4	4	4. Susceptible
<i>Tachydromia annulimana</i> Meigen, 1822	1	5	6		6	2	20	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Tachydromia arrogans</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)						2	2	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Tachydromia smithi</i> Chvála, 1966						1	1	4. Susceptible
<i>Tachydromia umbrarum</i> Haliday, 1833		7					7	4. Susceptible
<i>Tachypeza nubila</i> (Meigen, 1804)	11	12	15		8	7	53	6. Safe/Low risk
<i>Trichina bilobata</i> Collin, 1926	1	4		1	8	24	38	0. Extinct
<i>Trichina clavipes</i> Meigen, 1830	11	14	5	1		4	35	4. Susceptible
<i>Trichina elongata</i> Haliday, 1833	25	55	2	9	32	7	130	4. Susceptible
<i>Trichina opaca</i> Loew, 1864						1	1	7. Data deficient
<i>Trichinomyia flavipes</i> (Meigen, 1830)	2	19	11				32	4. Susceptible
total number specimens	626	2137	467	57	550	567	4192	
total number of species	58	79	38	24	44	44	90	
number of seasons sampled	2	3	1	1	1	1	3	

Annexe 3. List of the Red Data Book status with the species assigned to them.

species	RL (DM) 2001
Platypalpus pseudorapidus Kovalev, 1971	0. Extinct
Trichina bilobata Collin, 1926	0. Extinct
Platypalpus praecinctus (Collin, 1926)	2. Endangered
Platypalpus rapidus (Meigen, 1822)	2. Endangered
Hybos femoratus (Müller, 1776)	3. Vulnerable
Bicellaria sulcata (Zetterstedt, 1842)	4. Susceptible
Crossopalpus abditus Kovalev, 1972	4. Susceptible
Drapetis assimilis (Fallén, 1815)	4. Susceptible
Leptopeza flavipes (Meigen, 1820)	4. Susceptible
Oedalea hybotina (Fallén, 1816)	4. Susceptible
Oedalea stigmatella Zetterstedt, 1842	4. Susceptible
Oedalea zetterstedti Collin, 1926	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus albicornis (Zetterstedt, 1842)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus albiseta (Panzer, 1806)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus aristatus (Collin, 1926)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus candicans (Fallén, 1815)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus caroli Grootaert, 1987	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus cothurnatus Macquart, 1827	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus coxatus (Zetterstedt, 1842)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus dessarti Grootaert, 1983	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus exilis (Meigen, 1822)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus kirtlingensis Grootaert, 1986	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus laticinctus Walker, 1851	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus leucocephalus (von Roser, 1840)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus luteoloides Grootaert, 1983	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus luteolus (Collin, 1926)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus nanus (Oldenberg, 1924)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus optivus (Collin, 1926)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus pallipes (Fallén, 1815)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus pictitarsis (Becker, 1902)	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus pseudofulvipes Frey, 1909	4. Susceptible
Platypalpus stabilis (Collin, 1961)	4. Susceptible
Symbalophthalmus fuscitarsis (Zetterstedt, 1859)	4. Susceptible
Tachydromia aemula (Loew, 1864)	4. Susceptible
Tachydromia smithi Chvála, 1966	4. Susceptible
Tachydromia umbrarum Haliday, 1833	4. Susceptible
Trichina clavipes Meigen, 1830	4. Susceptible
Trichina elongata Haliday, 1833	4. Susceptible
Trichinomyia flavipes (Meigen, 1830)	4. Susceptible
Hybos culiciformis (Fabricius, 1775)	5. Near threatened
Bicellaria vana Collin, 1926	6. Safe/Low risk
Crossopalpus humilis (Frey, 1913)	6. Safe/Low risk
Crossopalpus minimus (Meigen, 1838)	6. Safe/Low risk
Crossopalpus nigrifellus (Zetterstedt, 1842)	6. Safe/Low risk
Drapetis parilis Collin, 1926	6. Safe/Low risk
Drapetis pusilla Loew, 1859	6. Safe/Low risk
Drapetis simulans Collin, 1961	6. Safe/Low risk
Elaphropeza ephippiata (Fallén, 1815)	6. Safe/Low risk
Euthyneura myrtilli Macquart, 1836	6. Safe/Low risk
Oedalea flavipes Zetterstedt, 1842	6. Safe/Low risk
Oedalea holmgreni Zetterstedt, 1852	6. Safe/Low risk
Oedalea tibialis Macquart, 1827	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus agilis (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus annulatus (Fallén, 1815)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus annulipes (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus articulatoideus (Frey, 1918)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus articulatus Macquart, 1827	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus australominutus Grootaert, 1989	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus calceatus (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus ciliaris (Fallén, 1816)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus interstinctus (Collin, 1926)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus longicornis (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus longiseta (Zetterstedt, 1842)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus maculipes (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus minutus (Meigen, 1804)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus niger (Meigen, 1804)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus notatus (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus pallidiventris (Meigen, 1822)	6. Safe/Low risk
Platypalpus pectoralis (Fallén, 1815)	6. Safe/Low risk
Tachydromia annulimana Meigen, 1822	6. Safe/Low risk
Tachydromia arrogans (Linnaeus, 1761)	6. Safe/Low risk
Tachypeza nubila (Meigen, 1804)	6. Safe/Low risk
Drapetis arcuata Loew, 1859	7. Data deficient
Drapetis exilis Meigen, 1822	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus pulicarius (Meigen, 1830)	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus divisus Walker, 1851	7. Data deficient
Bicellaria intermedia Lundbeck, 1910	7. Data deficient
Drapetis brucei Grootaert, 2016	7. Data deficient
Drapetis infitalis (Collin, 1961)	7. Data deficient
Leptopeza borealis Zetterstedt, 1842	7. Data deficient
Oedalea apicalis Loew, 1859	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus aurantiacus (Collin, 1926)	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus massarti sp. nov.	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus pictitarsoides sp. nov.	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus longimanus (Corti, 1907)	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus negrobovi Grootaert, Kustov & Shamshev, 2012	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus rapidoideus Chvála, 1975	7. Data deficient
Platypalpus subtilis (Collin, 1926)	7. Data deficient
Stilpon subnubilus Chvála, 1988	7. Data deficient
Trichina opaca Loew, 1864	7. Data deficient