

***Eristalis obscura* (Loew) (Diptera, Syrphidae): synonyms and morphological variation in the Holarctic region**

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Eristalis obscura Loew, 1866, is Holarctic in distribution and *E. pseudorupium* Kanervo, 1938 and *E. beltrami* Telford, 1970 are junior synonyms of it. *E. obscura* shows a great morphological variation of the superior lobe in the male genitalia, which is documented by illustrations. The distinguishing characters of *E. obscura* and other similar species are briefly discussed. The male genitalia of *E. saxorum* Wiedemann, 1830 are illustrated.

Key words: Diptera, Syrphidae, *Eristalis*, taxonomy, new synonyms, Holarctic region.

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Introduction

During a recent revision of the West-Palaeartic species of *Eristalis* Latreille, 1804 (Hippa & al. 2001) *E. pseudorupium* Kanervo, 1938 was found to be a widespread species in the Palaeartic region and it was reported even from Canada. Two Nearctic species, *E. obscura* Loew and *E. beltrami* Telford, 1970, were found similar to *E. pseudorupium* and synonymy of the two latter was suspected. Afterwards, the study of a more extensive material revealed a rather unexpected morphological variation, which ultimately led us to a belief that only one species is in question. The aim of this paper is to demonstrate the morphological variation in the male genitalia of *E. obscura* in the Holarctic region as well as to propose the synonymy of *E. pseudorupium* and *E. beltrami* with it.

Material and methods

The male genitalia were studied from specimens in liquid after treating with potassium hydroxide. The illustrations in Figure 1 were made by a drawing tube attached to a stereomicroscope. From part of the specimens the right side superior lobe was detached and slide-mounted in “Euparal”, between two round pieces of cover glass, 10 mm in diameter. The separate illustrations of the superior lobe (Figure 2) were drawn from these mini-slides by the aid of a drawing tube attached to a compound microscope. The slides are now enclosed in paper envelopes and they are stuck on the same pin bearing the other parts of the fly.

The material studied is deposited in the following collections: Canadian National Collections, Ottawa (*E. obscura*), Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, Helsinki (*E. obscura*), Zoological