

# The identities of *Hilara curvipes* Siebke, 1863 and *Hilara tarsata* Siebke, 1863 (Diptera, Empididae)

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*Hilara curvipes* Siebke, 1863 is here found to be a junior synonym of *Hilara intermedia* (Fallén, 1816) syn. nov., while *Hilara tarsata* Siebke, 1863 is sunk as a junior synonym of *Hilara pilipes* Zetterstedt, 1838 syn nov.

Key words: *Hilara curvipes*, *Hilara tarsata*, Empididae, Diptera, synonym.

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## Introduction

The Norwegian zoologist Johan Heinrich Spalckhaver Siebke (1816–75) has often been credited with laying the basis of the knowledge of the Norwegian insect fauna. During the years 1848–70 he carried out several collecting journeys covering many Norwegian districts, and most of these travels were reported upon in various parts in the periodical “Nyt Magazin for Naturvidenskaberne”. In one of these reports (Siebke 1863, pp. 109 and 152), he described two new *Hilara* species, descriptions that were subsequently republished in his pioneering work on the Norwegian dipteran fauna, *Enumeratio insectorum Norvegicorum, fasc. IV* (1877).

The first of these species was described from two females from HEN Tynset: Tyldalen as *Hilara curvipes* Siebke, 1863, while the other one was described from an uncertain number of males from Dovre as *Hilara tarsata* Siebke, 1863. Since then, these two species have not been revised and has consequently been considered having a doubtful status, even though The Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera (Chvála & Wagner, 1989) enters both as valid species, most certainly on the basis of both species being included by Engel (1941–43). Note

that Engel here erroneously gives the year of Siebke’s publication of the two species as 1864, and this is subsequently repeated by Chvála & Wagner (1989). Even though none of these two species are mentioned by Chvála (2005) in his work on the North European *Hilara*, they are still listed as valid by The Fauna Europaea Web Service (Chvála 2010).

During the preparation of the Empidoidea section of the Norwegian Red Data List for Species 2010 (Kålås & al. 2010), it became essential to check the identities of *Hilara curvipes* and *H. tarsata*, since they both are species that have not been reported outside of Norway. Fortunately, most of the specimens mentioned by Siebke (1877) are still in the collections at the Natural History Museum in Oslo. Furthermore, they are all in an extremely good condition, thereby facilitating the correct identification of the two species.

## Material and discussion

*Hilara curvipes* Siebke, 1863 is represented in NHMO by the following specimens:

1 ♀ labeled Tyldal 21.6.48 with an additional red label stating “typus”; 1 additional ♀ labeled

Tydal 21.6.48; 1♀ labeled Tydal, without date.; 1♀ labeled Vaage (= Vågå), without date; 1♂ labeled Nittedal, without date; 1♀1♂ (same pin) labeled Grundset (Elverum), without date; 1♀ labeled Grundset (Elverum), without date.

After close examination all these specimens proved to be the common *Hilara intermedia* (Fallén, 1816). It is a species that is widely distributed in Norway.

*Hilara tarsata* Siebke, 1863 is represented in NHMO by two specimens labeled ‘Dovre’, without a date. The collection may originally have consisted of more specimens than these, as Siebke (1877) states that the species is common at Dovre (‘ubique frequenter hanc speciem inveni’).

These two specimens obviously represented *Hilara pilipes* Zetterstedt, [1838], a boreomontane species that is increasingly common towards the north of Norway (Chvála, 2005). As a consequence of these indentifications, *Hilara curvipes* Siebke, 1863 is a junior synonym of *Hilara intermedia* (Fallén, 1816) syn. nov., while *Hilara tarsata* Siebke, 1863 is a junior synonym of *Hilara pilipes* Zetterstedt, [1838] syn. nov.

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