

# ***Paragus constrictus* Simic, 1986 (Diptera, Syrphidae) new to Norway, with some notes on the rare species *Paragus punctulatus* Zetterstedt, 1838**

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The species *Paragus constrictus* Simic, 1986 was found in a material from the Natural History Museum in Oslo. The specimens (3♀♀3♂♂), were caught at Ekebergskrånningen in Oslo by Anders Endrestøl. They were collected in a malaise trap placed in a west faced slope in late summer (19 August–22 October 2008). The rare species *Paragus punctulatus* Zetterstedt, 1838 is reported from two coastal localities further north than hitherto known.

Key words: Diptera, Syrphidae, *Paragus constrictus*, *Paragus punctulatus*, Norway.

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## **Introduction**

The genus *Paragus* Latreille, 1804 consists of small, mostly blackish flies, of which five species are known to occur in Norway. As this genus has been under revision for the last decades, it is not strange that the species numbers are slowly but steadily increasing. The sixth Norwegian species in this genus, *P. constrictus* Simic, 1986 was just recently separated from its close allies, *P. haemorrhous* Meigen, 1822 and *P. tibialis* (Fallén, 1817) (Simic 1986).

The very characteristic and diminutive flies are flying in warm and dry open habitats, mostly sea-shores and open mountain areas, where they are visiting flowers like *Fragaria vesca*, *Potentilla erecta* and *Galium verum*, flying rather low above the vegetation. The larvae are known to prey on root-living aphids (Bartsch et al. 2009).

## **The records**

The records are referred to the grid zones of the European Invertebrate Survey (EIS) (Endrestøl 2006) and to A. Strand's Norwegian reference system, as revised by Økland (1981).

### ***Paragus constrictus* Simic, 1986**

**Material.** AK Oslo: Ekebergskrånningen (EIS 28), 3♀♀3♂♂, 19 August–22 October 2008, Leg. A. Endrestøl, Coll. Natural History Museum in Oslo.

**Remarks.** The specimens were collected in a malaise trap placed in a west faced slope in late summer.

The locality is a mountainous slope facing the fjord in the city of Oslo, one of the last remnants of the nature that formed in one of Norway's climatically most favourable areas, and covering much of what is now Norway's biggest city area, consisting of open, herb-rich meadows, an open

pine forest, with brows of deciduous trees and bushes, and due to the openness of the landscape, an open influx from the sun until late evening.

The flies were flying with other species of the genus, as both *Paragus haemorrhous* and *Paragus pecchiolii* Rondani, 1857 were present in the same material.

### ***Paragus punctulatus* Zetterstedt, 1838**

**Material.** STI Oppdal: Kongsvold (EIS 79), 1 ex., 3 July 1995, Leg. L. Aarvik, Coll. M. Falck; TRI Kåfjord: Trollvik (EIS 163), 1 ex., 11 July 1995, Leg. K. Berggren & K. Myhr, Coll. M. Falck; NNØ Evenes: Liland, Evenestangen (EIS 139), 2 ex., 15 July 2009, Leg. & Coll. M. Falck.

**Remarks.** The species was described on the basis of a male caught at the Dovre mountains in Norway. It is still present in the same parts, as is shown by the fact that Leif Aarvik caught a specimen there in 1995.

This species, which is described as belonging to montane habitats, is thus also present at coastal areas in the northern parts of Norway.

It is reason to believe that due to its small sizes, these species are often overlooked, and maybe not often sought for. The distribution of *P. punctulatus* seems to be quite a bit greater than previously known. As for *P. constrictus*, which is found only on the one locality here reported, it should certainly be placed on the red list, and its habitat protected.

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