

Synopsis of the *Platycheirus ambiguus* species group (Diptera, Syrphidae), with description of *Platycheirus arnei* sp. n. and a preliminary key to the species

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23 species of the *Platycheirus ambiguus* group are known up till now and are presented here. A new species, *P. arnei* sp. n. is described, and *P. asioambiguus* Skuffin, 1987 is found to be a junior synonym of *P. longicornis* Peck, 1979, **syn. nov.** Details are given on the east Palaearctic and little known *P. fimbriatus* (Loew, 1871), and a first find of *P. fimbriatus* in Europe is recorded from Hungary. The paper includes a preliminary key to the species.

Key words: *Platycheirus*, *ambiguus* group, *P. arnei*, Syrphidae, new species, key.

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Introduction

Platycheirus is a large hoverfly genus, mainly Holarctic and boreal in distribution, from the arctic tundra southwards. Seventy species are known from the Nearctic region and more than a hundred from the Palaearctic region. A number of species occur also in Neotropical Mexico, Central America, and South America. Several high altitude species are known from Taiwan, Nepal, and the Philippines and 13 species are known from New Zealand, but the genus is absent from Indonesia, New Guinea, and Australia (Vockeroth 1990). Worldwide there are approximately 220 valid species of *Platycheirus* (Young 2013).

Species of the hoverfly genus *Platycheirus* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 is characterised by a parallel-sided or narrowly oval abdomen. The abdomen is all black in a few species, but is normally grey to orange spotted. The fore legs – and sometimes also the middle pair – are often modified in the male.

Vockeroth in his revision of the Nearctic

Platycheirus (1990) separated the genus into five groups: the *granditarsis* group (now resurrected as genus by Young (2013)), the *albimanus* group (with six subgroups), the *ambiguus* group, the *stegnus* group (with two subgroups) and the *concinus* group.

Material and methods

Since my publication on European species of the *ambiguus* group (Nielsen 2004), additional Palaearctic material has been examined from Hungarian Natural History Museum Budapest (HNHMB), Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis, Leiden (NCB), I.I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, National Academy of Sciences, Kiev (ZISK), Zoological Institute St. Petersburg (ZISP), Zoological Museum, Moscow (ZMM), Zoological Museum of the Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology RAS, Novosibirsk (ZMN), the collections of Dr. Thomas Romig, University of Hohenheim,