

The genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780 (Diptera, Anisopodidae) in Norway – with a key to the North European species

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Three species of *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780 are reported from Norway for the first time: *S. stackelbergi* Krivosheina & Menzel, 1998 from N and SE Norway; *S. fuscatus* (Fabricius, 1775) from Southeastern Norway; and *S. fuscatooides* Michelsen, 1999 from Finnmark, Hedmark and Oppland. By this, all seven species of *Sylvicola* known from Fennoscandia have been recorded from Norway. An illustrated key for the North European species is provided, and the internal female genitalia of *S. stackelbergi*, *S. fuscatus* and *S. fuscatooides* are illustrated for the first time. Females of *S. stackelbergi* and *S. fuscatus* were associated by use of DNA barcodes. The Norwegian distribution for all known species is commented on.

Key words: Diptera, Anisopodidae, *Sylvicola*, Norway.

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Introduction

In Fennoscandia, the most common species in the family Anisopodidae belong to the genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780. They are of moderate size and rather robust nematoceros Diptera, brown to reddish brown in colour, with spotted wings.

Species of *Sylvicola* are fairly common, and adults can be found almost throughout the year. Their larvae are saprophagous and develop in nearly all kinds of wet, fermenting plant material from rotting vegetables to decaying bast fibers in logs, and in droppings from large herbivores. Several species are common inhabitants in household compost bins. From Scotland, one species, *Sylvicola cinctus* (Fabricius, 1787), has also been reported feeding on a decaying carcass of a sheep (Hancock 1990). As indicated by one of their trivial names, wood gnats and window gnats,

they are common, but accidental visitors indoors.

Up to present, four species of *Sylvicola* have been reported from Norway, *S. cinctus* (Fabricius, 1787), *S. fenestralis* (Scopoli, 1763), *S. punctatus* (Fabricius, 1787) and *S. zetterstedti* (Edwards, 1923). Examination of material collected over the last four years has revealed the Norwegian fauna to hold another three species of the genus. Here we present these new findings, comments on the distribution of the remaining species, and a key for the identification of both sexes for all species occurring in Norway and Northern Europe.

Systematics

The family Anisopodidae is by most authors regarded as a monophyletic entity, but in a broader view, their systematical position is still unclear