

# The Horse Flies (Diptera, Tabanidae) of Norway

MORTEN FALCK

Falck, M. 2014. The Horse Flies (Diptera, Tabanidae) of Norway. *Norwegian Journal of Entomology* 61, 219–264.

The Norwegian species are reviewed, and keys are supplied for all species. The following species are reported as new to Norway: *Chrysops viduatus* (Fabricius, 1794), *Atylotus latistriatus* Brauer, 1880, *Hybomitra aterrима* (Meigen, 1820), *Hybomitra solstitialis* (Meigen 1820), *Haematopota italica* Meigen, 1804, *Haematopota subcylindrica* Pandellé, 1883 and *Tabanus miki* Brauer, 1880. The finding of *Hybomitra aterrима* solves the question of whether this taxon is a southern form of *Hybomitra auripila* Meigen, 1820 or a good species, and the long standing controversies over this question. However, the identity of *Atylotus latistriatus* seems to offer an unresolved problem. Maps of distribution, and a check list to the Norwegian species are supplied, and new Norwegian names are proposed for each species.

Key words: Diptera, Tabanidae, *Chrysops*, *Atylotus*, *Hybomitra*, *Tabanus*, *Heptatoma*, *Haematopota*, *Atylotus latistriatus*, *Hybomitra aterrима*, Norway, identification keys, distribution maps.

Morten Falck, Hovinveien 39, NO-0661 Oslo Norway. E-mail: morfalc@online.no

## Introduction

Horse flies are big to medium-sized flies of the lower Brachycera, comprising an estimated 4500 species worldwide (Marshall 2012). Their size, abundance and the females' blood-sucking make them one of the groups that most people relate to, have names for and know. However, this taken into consideration, it is a curious fact that the Norwegian species have not been subject to any serious treatment in their entirety, though several papers have been published on parts of the family and on different aspects of their behaviour.

This paper treat all the Norwegian species, and presents keys, maps of distribution, and photographs of each species. Norwegian names for the different species are also proposed, and a checklist of the Norwegian species is provided.

**History.** Linnaeus made the first Norwegian record, with the description of *Hybomitra tarandina* (Linnaeus, 1758). Among his pupils, there were the Norwegian priest C. L. Strøm, who in 1768 described *Tabanus ferrugineus* Strøm, 1768, later synonymized with *T. glaucopis*

Meigen, 1820, and the danish priest O. Fr. Müller, who in 1764 described *Haematopota arcticus* (Müller, 1764), later synonymized with *H. pluvialis* (Linnaeus, 1758). As the northern parts of the country was researched by the pupils and heirs of Linnaeus, more species were named. I. C. Fabricius named *Hybomitra borealis* (Fabricius, 1781), and the great German dipterist J. W. Meigen described *Hybomitra auripila* (Meigen, 1820). The most active was however J. W. Zetterstedt, who described as many as six species, namely *Chrysops nigripes* Zetterstedt, [1838], *Atylotus sublunaticornis* (Zetterstedt, 1842), *Tabanus maculicornis* Zetterstedt, 1842, *H. lugubris* (Zetterstedt, [1838]), *H. flaviceps* (Zetterstedt, 1842), and *H. alpina* (Zetterstedt, [1838]) from Norwegian material, of which the first three are still valid.

After 1842, however, the Norwegian fauna has been mostly left to Norwegian dipterists. Many of them have been active in researching the fauna. J. H. H. Siebke described the species *Chrysops maurus* Siebke, 1864, from Laurgård in 1864, a name that has since been synonymized With