

# The identification of *Allohelea* KIEFFER and *Allohelea tessellata* (ZETTERSTEDT) (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) – a genus and a species new to The Netherlands

[Die Identifikation von *Allohelea* KIEFFER und *Allohelea tessellata* (ZETTERSTEDT)  
(Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) – eine Gattung und eine Art neu für die Niederlande]

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<b>Abstract</b>	The capture of a biting midge species of the genus <i>Allohelea</i> KIEFFER, 1917 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) is reported for the first time from The Netherlands. To facilitate recognition of the genus and the identified species <i>Allohelea tessellata</i> (ZETTERSTEDT, 1850), a diagnostic description, an illustration and a short key to the genus <i>Allohelea</i> as well as to most other Central European ceratopogonid genera are presented.
<b>Key words</b>	Ceratopogonidae, <i>Allohelea tessellata</i> , Palaearctic Region, Europe, The Netherlands, redescription, key, distribution, first record
<b>Zusammenfassung</b>	Erstmalig wurde ein Vertreter der Gattung <i>Allohelea</i> KIEFFER, 1917 (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) in den Niederlanden nachgewiesen. Um die Zuordnung zur Gattung und zur identifizierten Art <i>Allohelea tessellata</i> (ZETTERSTEDT, 1850) zu vereinfachen, wird eine morphologische Beschreibung mit Illustrationen sowie ein kurzer Bestimmungsschlüssel gegeben, der zur Gattung <i>Allohelea</i> wie auch zu den häufigsten zentraleuropäischen Ceratopogoniden-Gattungen führt.
<b>Stichwörter</b>	Ceratopogonidae, <i>Allohelea tessellata</i> , paläarktische Region, Europa, Niederlande, Redeskription, Bestimmungsschlüssel, Verbreitung, Erstnachweis

## Introduction

Bluetongue disease is a viral disease of ruminants caused by the *bluetongue virus* after transmission by culicoid biting midges. After it had appeared in northern Europe in August 2006 entomological studies were implemented in all affected EU Member States to establish which species of *Culicoides* can act as vectors. Additional investigations were initiated to study breeding sites, host preferences and distribution of the possible vectors. During a fieldtrip by the German Arbeitskreis Diptera (“Working Group Diptera”), field studies of biting midges were carried out in The Netherlands. A predaceous ceratopogonid species not previously reported from this country (KNOZ & BEUK 2002), *Allohelea tessellata* (ZETTERSTEDT, 1850), was collected.

## Material and methods

**Sampling site.** On 26 June 2010, a warm and sunny day, insects were collected with a sweepnet from wet swamps on the southern edges of Buurse, Nature Reserve Buurserzand, Buursermeertje, 52°09'08"N 06°47'59"E (Fig. 1). The location was approximately 5 km east of Haaksbergen and 10 km southwest of Enschede. The sampling site was covered with sedge, including many *Carex*, *Aegopodium*, *Agrostis* and *Nartheceium* species.