

Revision of European species of the *Empis* (s. str.) *pennipes* group of species (Diptera: Empididae), with descriptions of five new species from the Mediterranean and the Caucasus

[Revision der europäischen Arten der *Empis* (s. str.) *pennipes*-Gruppe (Diptera: Empididae) nebst der Beschreibung von fünf neuen Arten aus dem Mittelmeergebiet und dem Kaukasus]

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| Abstract | The <i>Empis pennipes</i> group of species is clearly defined, and is represented by large sized species with simple large male genitalia with a long free aedeagus, and long slender unmodified legs. Western Palaearctic species of this group of the subgenus <i>Empis</i> s. str. (Diptera: Empididae), with <i>Empis pennipes</i> LINNAEUS, 1758 as type of the genus, are revised. Altogether 13 species are recognized, of which five are described as new for science: one (<i>Empis provencalis</i> spec. nov.) from western Switzerland and the southeast of France, and four species from the Caucasus: <i>Empis caucasidecora</i> spec. nov., <i>Empis brendae</i> spec. nov., <i>Empis aceponti</i> spec. nov., and <i>Empis planti</i> spec. nov. A key to the species of this group is given. |
| Key words | Empididae, <i>Empis</i> s. str., western Palaearctic, new species, description, key |
| Zusammenfassung | Die <i>Empis pennipes</i> -Gruppe ist innerhalb der Gattung <i>Empis</i> klar definiert. Sie beinhaltet größere Arten mit einfachen männlichen Genitalapparaten, in denen der lange Aedeagus offen liegt und die, ebenfalls auf die Männchen bezogen, lange und schlanke, unmodifizierte Beine aufweisen. In der vorliegenden Arbeit werden die westpaläarktischen Arten dieser Gruppe aus dem Subgenus <i>Empis</i> s. str. (Diptera: Empididae), mit der Typusart <i>Empis pennipes</i> LINNAEUS, 1758, einer Revision unterzogen. Nunmehr umfasst die Gruppe insgesamt 13 Arten, von denen fünf als neu für die Wissenschaft beschrieben werden. Eine Art, nämlich <i>Empis provencalis</i> spec. nov., kommt in der westlichen Schweiz und dem Südosten Frankreichs vor, und von weiteren vier Arten liegt der Typenfundort im Kaukasus: <i>Empis caucasidecora</i> spec. nov., <i>Empis brendae</i> spec. nov., <i>Empis aceponti</i> spec. nov. und <i>Empis planti</i> spec. nov. Ein Bestimmungsschlüssel der Arten dieser Gruppe wird gegeben. |
| Stichwörter | Empididae, <i>Empis</i> s. str., West-Paläarktis, neue Arten, Beschreibung, Bestimmungsschlüssel |

Introduction

Males of the *Empis pennipes* group of species may well be recognized from all other species of the subgenus *Empis* s. str. by the simple large genitalia with a very long, uniformly slender, and evenly bowed aedeagus. The colouration of the pubescence and setae on body and legs varies from black to whitish, but all members of this group are generally medium to larger-sized species, always with a long slender proboscis with labrum about 2–3 times as long as head is high, and with unmodified long slender legs covered with long, specifically well separated bristles and setae. Their systematic position and classification, with a detailed morphological characterisation of further species groups of the subgenus *Empis* s. str., is in preparation.

Only 13 species of the *Empis pennipes* group are recognized in Europe including the Caucasus; seven species were already known in Europe and their distribution is also fully given in the Fauna Europaea Web Service (available online at <http://www.faunaeur.org>). One species, *Empis provencalis* spec. nov., is described here from the lowlands of southeast France, from