

# The first Oriental species of the genus *Brachyopa* MEIGEN (Diptera: Syrphidae), with a discussion on the Syrphidae fauna of the Indo-Malayan transition zone

[Die erste orientalische Art aus der Gattung *Brachyopa* MEIGEN (Diptera: Syrphidae), mit einer Diskussion über die Schwebfliegenfauna der indo-malayischen Übergangszone]

by

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## Abstract

The genus *Brachyopa* MEIGEN, 1822 is recorded from the Oriental region for the first time. *Brachyopa exigua* spec. nov. is described from Kambaiti, Myanmar. One additional male is known from Thailand. The new species is compared with similar *Brachyopa* species from the Palaearctic region. The reason why the Kambaiti area is a transition zone between the Palaearctic and Oriental fauna is discussed.

## Key words

Syrphidae, *Brachyopa*, Oriental Region, Indo-Malay biodiversity hotspot, transition zone, new species

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## Zusammenfassung

Die Gattung *Brachyopa* MEIGEN, 1822 wurde in der orientalischen Region zum ersten Mal nachgewiesen. *Brachyopa exigua* spec. nov. wird aus Kambaiti, Myanmar beschrieben. Ein zusätzliches Männchen ist aus Thailand bekannt. Die neue Art wird mit ähnlichen *Brachyopa*-Arten aus der paläarktischen Region verglichen. Der Grund, warum das Kambaiti-Gebiet eine Übergangszone zwischen der paläarktischen und orientalischen Fauna ist, wird diskutiert.

## Stichwörter

Syrphidae, *Brachyopa*, orientalische Region, indo-malaysischer Biodiversitätshotspot, Übergangszone, neue Art

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## Introduction

The genus *Brachyopa* MEIGEN, 1822 [with *Musca conica* PANZER, 1798 as type species; designated by WESTWOOD (1840)] is a Holarctic genus with 40 described species of which 12 are Nearctic and 28 Palaearctic, without any Holarctic species (PAPE & THOMPSON 2015, VAN STEENIS & VAN STEENIS 2014). The species of *Brachyopa* occur in coniferous and deciduous broadleaved forest. The larvae live in a diverse array of decaying or exuding tree sap in dead or living trees (MCLEAN & STUBBS 1990; ROTHERAY 1991, 1996; KRIVOSHEINA 2005; SIVOVA et al. 1999; RICARTE et al. 2013). The males can be seen patrolling trees with supposed sap runs, defending a territory and looking for females to copulate with. Flowers visited are mostly “open” flowers like Apiaceae, *Prunus*, *Crataegus* and Aceraceae (*Acer*).

The species of the genus *Brachyopa* are distinguished from other Syrphidae by the following combination of characters: Size small to medium (5–10 mm); colour mainly brown, brown-red or black; postpronotum pilose; basoflagellomere round to oval, often with clearly visible sensory pit; vein  $R_{4+5}$  straight; cross vein  $r-m$  before middle of discal cell and vein  $t-m$  oblique to vein  $R_{4+5}$  (TORP 1994, REEMER et al. 2009). In the field the flies resemble dung-flies (Scatophagidae).

There has been no cladistic analyses of the genus and only PELLMANN (1998) and DOCZKAL & DZIOCK (2004) tentatively assigned species to certain groups. KASSEBEER (2001) erected a new subgenus (*Trichobrachyopa*),