

**The first record of the genus *Melanochthiphila* FREY
(Diptera: Chamaemyiidae) from the Palaearctic,
and new data on other Chamaemyiidae from Morocco**

[Der erste Nachweis der Gattung *Melanochthiphila* FREY
(Diptera: Chamaemyiidae) aus der Paläarktis
und neue Fundmeldungen von weiteren Chamaemyiidae aus Marokko]

by

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Abstract

The Moroccan species of Chamaemyiidae are reviewed. Fifteen species in the genera *Chamaemyia* MEIGEN, 1803, *Parochthiphila* CZERNY, 1904, *Leucopis* MEIGEN, 1830 and *Lipoleucopis* DE MEIJERE, 1928 are listed together with their collection data and distribution. *Melanochthiphila* spec., an undescribed species, is the first record of this genus from the Palaearctic. It is compared with *M. nigroaenea* FREY, 1958 from the Cape Verde Islands and is only the second known species of the genus. A lectotype is designated for *Melanochthiphila aenea*.

Key words

Chamaemyiidae, Palaearctic Region, Morocco, faunistics, new records

Zusammenfassung

Die marokkanischen Chamaemyiidae-Arten werden überprüft. Fünfzehn Arten aus den Gattungen *Chamaemyia* MEIGEN, 1803, *Parochthiphila* CZERNY, 1904, *Leucopis* MEIGEN, 1830 und *Lipoleucopis* DE MEIJERE, 1928 werden mit ihren Funddaten und ihrer Verbreitung aufgelistet. *Melanochthiphila* spec., eine noch unbeschriebene Art, ist der erste Nachweis für die Gattung aus der Paläarktis. Sie wurde mit *M. nigroaenea* FREY, 1958 von den Kapverdischen Inseln verglichen und ist erst die zweite Art, die aus dieser Gattung bekannt geworden ist.

Stichwörter

Chamaemyiidae, paläarktische Region, Marokko, Faunistik, neue Nachweise

Introduction

The Chamaemyiidae is a family of small acalyptratae flies sometimes colloquially referred to as silver-flies. The family is well-represented in all zoogeographical regions, but with most of the described species from the Palaearctic. The biology is relatively uniform in that all reared species have been predators during their larval stages, preying upon sternorrhynchous Hemiptera (e. g., aphids, coccids, scale insects and psyllids), with examples of both free-living and gall-forming prey species being attacked. MCLEAN (1998) summarises the knowledge of the Palaearctic fauna and provides a key to the genera that occur in this region. RASPI (1983) gives a detailed account of the immature stages and biology of some coastal species that is relevant to the Moroccan fauna, namely for *Chamaemyia flavipalpis* (HALIDAY, 1838) and *Parochthiphila coronata* (LOEW, 1858). Species of Chamaemyiidae are considered good candidates for further investigation as biocontrol agents.

Remarkably little has been published on the fauna of Morocco. The Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera (TANASIJTSHUK 1984) listed only *Parochthiphila coronata* (LOEW, 1858) and MOUNA (1998) added *Chamaemyia maritima* (ZETTERSTEDT, 1846), a junior synonym of *flavipalpis* (HALIDAY, 1838), *Leucopis annulipes* ZETTERSTEDT, 1848 and *L. griseola* (FALLÉN, 1823). Several other species are known from the nearby countries of Spain (including