

## ***Lasiomma seminitidum* (Zetterstedt, 1845) new for Belgium (Diptera: Anthomyiidae)**

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### **Abstract**

In this paper the Anthomyiidae species *Lasiomma seminitidum* (Zetterstedt, 1845) is added to the Belgian checklist.

**Keywords:** Anthomyiidae, *Lasiomma*, species new for Belgium.

### **Samenvatting**

In dit artikel wordt de Anthomyiidae soort *Lasiomma seminitidum* (Zetterstedt, 1845) toegevoegd aan de Belgische checklist.

### **Résumé**

Dans cet article, *Lasiomma seminitidum* (Zetterstedt, 1845) est mentionné pour la première fois de Belgique.

### **Introduction**

Anthomyiidae are mostly small, grey, brown or black calyptrate flies. A few species are yellow. They resemble Muscidae, but are generally more slender. With some exceptions Anthomyiidae can be distinguished from Muscidae by the anal vein which reaches the wing margin and by the numerous fine pale hairs on the underside of the scutellum. Identification of the genera and species is mainly based on the chaetotaxy and the configuration of the terminalia. Up to now Anthomyiidae have received little attention in Belgium. Since the Belgian Anthomyiidae checklist of GOSSERIES & ACKLAND (1991) only some papers on the genus *Egle* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 were published (MARTENS & MORTELMANS, 2013; MARTENS *et al.*, 2015). In this paper we describe the first Belgian records of *Lasiomma seminitidum* (Zetterstedt, 1845).

### **Material and methods**

Most specimens were collected with a net after detection on sight. The specimen of 5.III.2016 was obtained by sweeping. All specimens were dry set. For part of the male specimens the terminalia were dissected and kept in microvials, applying a method that doesn't use aggressive chemicals as explained in MARTENS *et al.* (2015). The material is kept in the personal collection of the author. Identification is based on the unpublished genera and *Lasiomma* keys of ACKLAND in combination with his drawings of the terminalia and is verified by comparing with the pictures and descriptions in VAN ERKELENS (2012).

### **Results**

**MATERIAL.** Knesselare, Tuin Koffiestraat 6, 17.II.2016, 4♂ & 1♀; same locality, 24.II.2016, 1♂ & 2♀; same locality, 27.II.2016, 5♂ & 4♀; same locality 3.III.2016, 1♂ & 3♀; Maldegem, most northeasterly access road to the military airport of Knesselare, 5.III.2016, 2♂ & 1♀; Knesselare, Tuin Koffiestraat 6, 10.III.2016, 1♀. All material leg., det. & coll. C. Martens.

Most material was obtained in a warm, wind sheltered corner of my garden. The flies were sitting in the sun on the leaves of several shrub species. It is remarkable that the first specimens were obtained as early as 17 February at a temperature of only about 5°C, however in sunny circumstances. The specimen from Maldegem was collected at the border of a forest area, by sweeping with a net through the branches of flowering *Populus tremula*. Here the temperature was about 6°C. The sun had been shining earlier on the day, but at the moment of the catch the sky was completely covered.

### Biology of *Lasiomma* species

Anthomyiidae larvae have very diverse feeding strategies. *Lasiomma* larvae are known as being saprophagous. They are found on many types of organic material, including rotting meat, dead animals and excrements of humans, mammals and birds and in the cones of larch (HENNIG, 1966-1976; VAN ERKELENS, 2012). *Lasiomma seminitidum* was reared from human excrement (HENNIG, 1966-1976), from bird nests (HENNIG, 1966-1976) and from excrements of Barn Swallow (VAN ERKELENS, 2012). An imago of this species also emerged from a bunch of grass six days after placement in a small aquarium vat covered with a transparent plastic lid with small holes. Given the short period in the vat there must probably have been a puparium hidden between the grass stems (VAN ERKELENS, 2012). Another species i.e. *L. anthomyinum* (Rondani, 1866) was reared from a nest of the caterpillar *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Linnaeus, 1758) (ZEEGERS, 2006) and from owl pellets (FERRAR, 1987).

### Discussion

The discovery of *Lasiomma seminitidum* in Belgium did not come as a surprise. This species is known from all our neighbouring countries, except from Luxemburg (VAN ERKELENS, 2012, MICHELSEN, 2016). In the Netherlands it flies during a great part of the year (at least to the end of October) and it is a common species that occurs in very diverse habitats, both in anthropogenic and in more natural environments (VAN ERKELENS, 2012).

Other species of the genus *Lasiomma* can be expected in Belgium. Most European *Lasiomma* species seem to have a northern distribution, but four more species occur in all our neighbouring countries except Luxemburg, i.e. *L. anthomyinum* (Rondani, 1866), *L. latipenne* (Zetterstedt, 1838), *L. picipes* (Meigen, 1826) and *L. strigillatum* (Zetterstedt, 1838) (MICHELSEN, 2016).

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