

***Leopoldius valvatus* Kröber, 1914 (Diptera: Conopidae):
new to Belgium**

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28.VII.2006, Moorsel (Aalst, prov. East Flanders), one female, leg. Dirk de Vis, det. Jonas Mortelmans, col. RBINS.

Leopoldius is an striking genus of very big, yellow-black conopid flies. Females are easily recognised by the typical theca (DE BREE *et al.*, 2014) whereas males cannot be identified up to this day. This genus is rarely caught even on a wide geographic scale.

In 2014, DE BREE *et al.* gave an excellent summary of the different *Leopoldius* species occurring in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg and a well-illustrated key making identification of the several species easy. After this publication, material caught in 2006 by Dirk de Vis was sent to the first author for identification. In this way, the first record of *L. valvatus* for Belgium occurred and is hereby formally reported. DE BREE *et al.* (2014) already expected that this species should occur in Belgium

Apparently, *L. valvatus* seems to prefer open and moist biotopes, in contrast to its congeners (DE BREE *et al.*, 2014). The Belgian specimen apparently follows this preference as it was caught on a leaf of American Oak (*Quercus rubra* L.) on the edge of forest and a moist meadow. Other ecological and habitat preferences are unknown (STUKE *et al.*, 2010).

The current distribution includes the Netherlands, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Ukraine (STUKE *et al.*, 2010; DE BREE *et al.*, 2014).