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# DESCRIPTION OF THREE NEW **PLATYPALPUS** SPECIES (DIPTERA : EMPIDIDAE) FROM BELGIUM*

by Patrick GROOTAERT**

Actually over 200 species of *Platypalpus* MACQUART are known from Europe. During the last decades the genus was subject of several thorough revisions. Very important are the monographs of Collin (1961) which covers the British fauna and that of Chvála (1975) which deals with the fauna of Fennoscandia and Denmark. Both authors studied most type material and made adequate redescriptions.

In the present paper 3 new species are described : *Platypalpus dessarti* sp. n., *P. luteoloides* sp. n. and *P. latemi* sp. n.. All three species have been captured with Malaise traps in gardens. A key is given for the so-called yellow species.

## *Platypalpus dessarti* sp. n.

Species with 1 pair of vertical bristles, black thorax and yellow abdomen ; sternopleura dusted ; third antennal segment yellow in both sexes.

MALE

Frons broad, parallel sided and dusted. Face as deep as front of frons, dusted. 1 pair of yellow vertical bristles. Pubescence on occiput becoming longer and whitish below. Proboscis as long as head is high. Antennae short ; basal two segments yellow though darker than the third. The yellowish third segment ovate, 2-2.5 times as long as deep. Arista black, 1.5 times as long as

* Accepted September 1th 1982.

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the third segment. Palpi large ovate, pale yellow with whitish pubescence and some long pale brisles near the tip.

Thorax black, yellowish grey dusted even on sternopleura ; all hairs and bristles yellow. Acrostichals short biserial, dorsocentrals uniserial, short in front and ending in two long prescutellars ; 1 humeral, 2 notopleurals with some pubescence, 1 postalar and 2 strong scutellar bristles with a fine hair near each.

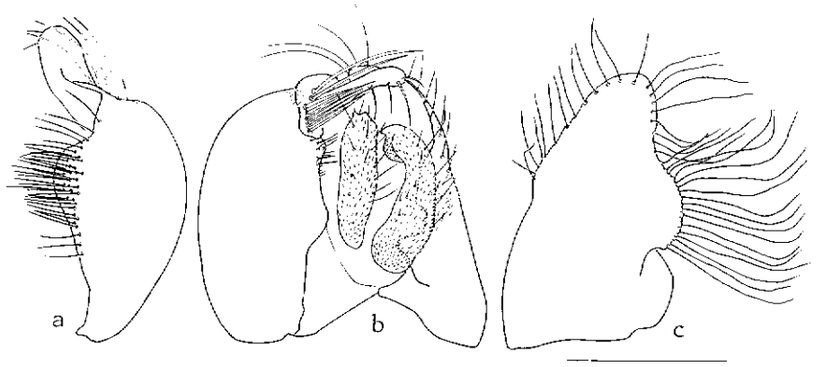


FIG. 1. — *Platypalpus dessarti* sp. n. genitalia paratype : A right periandrial lamella ; B periandrium with cerci ; C left periandrial lamella. Scale 0.2 mm

Legs yellow with annulated tarsi. Coxae yellow. Front femora thickened at their base, thicker than the middle femora. Ventral hairs short yellow. Front tibiae sparcely haired. Annulation of front tarsi somewhat more pronounced than on the others. Middle femora not very thickened ; the usual double row of fine black ventral spines present. The yellowish posteroventral bristles (8) half as long as femur is deep. A sharp spur on middle tibiae with a curved tip. Spur scarcely longer than tibia is deep.

Wing membrane hyaline but appearing yellowish due to the yellowish veins. Vein m gently bowed but ending parallel to vein $r_{4+5}$ Posterior crossveins widely separated so that the second basal cell is longer than the first. Vein closing the anal cell perpendicular on anal vein which is hardly visible.

Abdomen completely yellow, only first segment dusted ; yellowish pubescence on sides. Hypopygium black, cerci small enveloped in the periandrial lamellae (fig. 1 A-C).
Body length : 2.9 mm ; Wing length : 3.1 mm.



FEMALE

In nearly all characteristics identical to the male. Last abdominal segments dusted. Cerci darkened.

Body length : 3.2 mm ; wing length : 2.9 mm.

*Variability* :

The acrostichals may be closer or more widely separated. The presence of one or two bristles anteriorly may give the impression that the acrostichals are irregularly triserial but on the posterior 3/4 of the mesonotum they are strictly biserial.

In a single immature female all bristles were darkened. It is supposed that it is due to immaturity and not to variation of the mature adult.

A male from Ottignies (19-23.VIII.1980, earlier previously recorded by Fassotte & Grootaert, 1981 as *P. cursitans*) had the last three abdominal segments somewhat darkened.

Body length varied in between 2.2 and 3.9 mm.

*Differential diagnosis* :

The absence of a shining spot on the sternopleura places *P. dessarti* sp. n. immediately near *P. cursitans* (FABRICIUS), *P. candicans* (FALLÉN), *P. verralli* (COLLIN) and *P. nigrimanus* (STROBL). Other species with a completely dusted sternopleuron such as *P. leucocephalus* (VON ROSER), *P. hackmanni* CHVÀLA and *P nanus* (OLDENBERG) are morphologically quite different and do not need comparison here.

*P. dessarti* sp. n. is in many respects similar to *P. verralli* (Collin). The yellow abdomen of *P. dessarti* sp. n. is the easiest way to separate it from *P. verralli* with its black abdomen. Further, the third antennal segment is completely yellow in both sexes of *P. dessarti* sp. nov. while the extreme tip is darkened in the male and almost completely darkened in the female of *P. verralli,* thus exhibiting an unusual sexual dimorphism in the genus *Platypalpus*. The dorsocentrals have a normal length in *P. dessarti* sp. n. in contrast to the typical 5-6 long dc in *P. verralli*. Further the crossveins are widely separated in *P. dessarti* sp. n., being contiguous or at least close together in *P. verralli* in which veins $r_{4-5}$ and m are also more paralell. The difference in hypopygium structure is very distinct i.e. the left periandrial lamella (for *P.*

*verralli* see Collin, 1961, fig. 61, p. 165 ; Chvàla, 1977, fig. 497, p. 204).

*P. dessarti* sp. n. differs from *P. candicans* by the colouration of the antennae, depth of the frons and the wing venation. It is easy distinguished by the sharp annulations of the tarsi which are absent or very indistinct in *P .candicans*. The robust *P. cursitans* can be separated from the smaller *P. dessarti* sp. n. again by the colouration of the antennae, the wing venation and the dusting of the abdomen. *P. nigrimanus* has a very long black third antennal segment.

*Type material* :

Holotype ♂ : Belgium ; Ottignies, 6-12.VI.1981 (leg. P. Dessart) conserved in alcohol ; Coll. I.R.S.N.B.

Allotype ♀ : Belgium, Ottignies, 6-12.VI.1981 (leg. P. Dessart) conserved in alcohol ; Coll. I.R.S.N.B.

Paratypes : Belgium, Ottignies (Malaise trap, leg. P. Dessart) all conserved in alcohol ; Coll. I.R.S.N.B. : 30.V-6.VI.1981, 1 ♂ ; 6-12.VI.1981, 3 ♂, 4 ♀ (slide nr. 82.10.26.01 : hypopygium ; slide nr. 82.10.26.02 : legs male ; slide nr. 82.10.26.03 : legs female) ; 13-22.VI.1981, 1 ♂, 16 ♀ ; 20-27.VI.1981, 1 ♀ ; 27.VI-4.VII, 5 ♀ ; 4-11.VII. 1981, 2 ♂, 4 ♀ ; 11-18.VII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 18-25.VII.1981, 2 ♀ ; 25.VII-1.VIII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 1-8.VIII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 29.VIII-5.IX.1981, 1 ♀ ; 5-12.IX.1981, 1 ♀.
Sint Martens-Latem : 5-12.VII.1981, 3 ♀ ; 12-18.VII.1981, 1 ♀ (Malaise trap, leg. P. Grootaert).
Ethe (Centre d'Ethe-Buzenol), 28.VII-11.VIII. 1981, 1 ♀ (Malaise trap ; leg. P. Grootaert).
France : St. Lunaire, 27-31.VII.1949, 1 ♀ (ex coll. M. Bequaert) on pin in coll. M. Chvála (Charles University, Prague).

*Type locality* :

Ottignies, province Brabant, Belgium. The site was a garden bordered by the river Dyle (detailed description in Fassotte & Grootaert, 1981).



*Etymology* :

This new species is named after Ir. P. Dessart who kindly provided me weekly for almost 3 years with Malaise trap samples from his garden.

*Remarks* :

*P. dessarti* sp. n. has been found in 3 widely separated localities in Belgium : St. Martens-Latem near Gent in the lowland, Ottignies (south-east from Brussels) and Ethe on the southern border of the Ardennes (alt. 320 m). Further it was captured in France in St. Lunaire which is probably near St. Malo. So we conclude that this species is probably widespread and although it was not present in hand captures in Belgian collections it seems not uncommon. We suppose that it has been confused with *P. candicans*.

*P. dessarti* sp. n. appears early June with the peak of activity in the same month. Captures during 1982 show the same period of activity.

### *Platypalpus luteoloides* sp. n.

Yellow species with 1 pair of vertical bristles. Acrostichals biserial and a short blunt tibial spur.

HOLOTYPE MALE

Frons black, dusted with a whitish translucent wig behind antennae. Frons broad parallel-sided, deeper than second antennal segment. Occiput black, greyish dusted, posteriorly with long whitish pubescence. One pair of long yellow vertical bristles. Face as wide as front of frons, whitish dusted. Antennae white. Third segment completely white and 2-2.5 times as long as deep. Arista 1.5 times as long as third segment. Only apical half of arista black. Proboscis yellow except for the black terminal hooks. Palpi large ovate with long pubescence.

Thorax yellow, dusted except for the polished sternopleura. Humeri well differentiated somewhat lighter yellow than the rest of the mesonotum. All bristles yellow. Long humeral, acrostichals biserial, dorsocentrals uniserial longer than acrostichals and ending in a pair of long prescutellars. Two notopleurals, the uppermost one very long ; 1 postalar and 2 strong scutellars with a fine hair near each.

Legs white to yellow. Coxae and basal parts of femora white, further more yellowish. Tarsi not annulated, only claws black. Front femora thickened. Front tibiae with a preapical comb of spines. Tibial gland uniramous. Front metatarsus apically with about 8 short black spines. Pubescence on tip of metatarsus less pronounced as in *P. luteolus* (COLLIN). Second tarsus with 3 spines

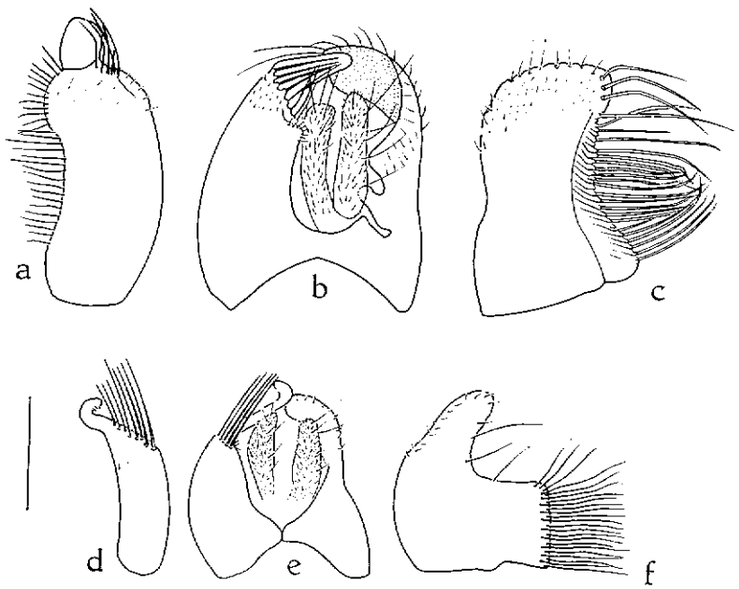


FIG. 2. — A-C Hypopygium of *Platypalpus luteoloides* sp. n. (holotype) ; D-F hypopygium of *P. luteolus* (COLLIN). Scale 0.2 mm

near tip. Middle femora as deep as front femora. Anteroventral bristles and the double row of yellowish spines becoming longer in the basal fifth. Six posteroventral bristles present. Spur to middle tibiae blackish, short and blunt (fig. 3 B), shovel-shaped. Middle metatarsus ventrally with yellowish spine-like bristles and short brown spines near tip. Posterior femora slender. Posterior tibiae with the usual apical comb of long spines.

Abdomen yellow, all tergites broadly dusted at sides. Short haired in the middle but sides with long pubescence. Left periandrial lamella blackish brown. Right lamella and cerci yellow.



Wings faintly yellowish with yellow veins. $R_{4+5}$ and m parallel. Crossveins separated.

Body length 2.4 mm. Wing length 2.6 mm.

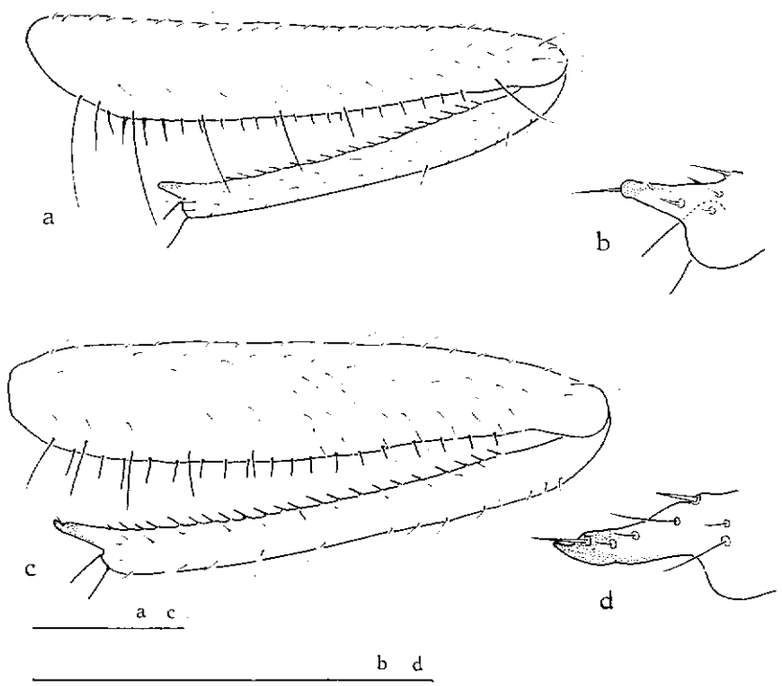


FIG. 3. — Mid femur and tibia in posterior view with detail of the spur. A-B *P. luteoloides* sp. n. (paratype male) ; C-D P. *luteolus* (COLLIN) (male). Scae 0.2 mm

FEMALE

In most characteristics identical to the male. Frons somewhat narrower and cerci yellow.

Body length 2.7 mm ; wing length 2.6 mm.

*Differential diagnosis* :

The presence of a completely yellow thorax, 1 pair of vertical bristles and biserial acrostichals places this species near *P. luteolus* (COLLIN), *P. leucocephalus* (VON ROSER) and *P. exilis* (MEIGEN).

For further differentiation with the other « yellow » species we refer to the following key.

As suggested by its name *P. luteoloides* sp. n. is very closely related to *P. luteolus* (COLLIN). It is easy distinguished by its short blunt tibial spur from *P. luteolus* which has a long sharp spur with a recurved tip. (Fig. 2 D, E). The hypopygium in *P. luteolus* is small and yellow while it is nearly twice as long with a black left periandrial lamella in *P. luteoloides* sp. n. The morphology of the lamellae are completely different as can be seen in fig. 2. Further there are minor differences in the chaetotaxie of the legs i.e. the posteroventral bristles on the mid femora are less developed in *P. luteolus*.

Most probably *P. luteoloides* sp.n. and *P. luteolus* belong to the « *albicornis* » species group as indicated by their whitish antennae and the ressemblance of their palpi.

*Platypalpus pollinosus* (STROBL, 1898) is a species inquirenda but is probably not *P. luteoloides* sp. n. since Strobl has seen the specimen from de Meijere's collection and labelled it as follows : *Tachydromia pallida* MEIGEN ? besitze ich nicht. Strobl determ. 1901.

*Type material* :

Holotype ♂ : Belgium, Ottignies, 23-28.VIII.1980 (leg. P. Dessart) ; conserved in alcohol ; hypopygium in slide nr 81.10.00.01 ; coll. I.R.S.N.B.

Allotype ♀ : Belgium, Ottignies, 23-28.VIII.1980 (leg. P. Dessart) ; conserved in alcohol ; coll. I.R.S.N.B.

Paratypes : Belgium, Ottignies (Malaise trap, leg. P. Dessart), 13-22.VI.1981 1 ♀ ; 27.VI-4.VII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 4-11.VII, 3 ♀ ; 11-18.VII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 25.VII-1.VIII.1981, 1 ♂ ; 8-15.VIII.1981, 2 ♀ ; 29.VIII-5.IX.1981. 1 ♀ (legs and wings in slide) ; 12-19.VI.1982, 1 ♂. 1 ♀ ; 10-17.VII.1982, 3 ♀ ; 17-24.VII.1982, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ ; 24-31.VII.1982, 2 ♀ ; 31.VII-14.VIII.1982, 2 ♀.
Belgium, St. Martens-Latem (Malaise trap, leg. P. Grootaert) 20-28.VI.1981, 1 ♀ ; 5-12.VII.1981, 1 ♀ ; 12-18.VII.1981, 1 ♀.



The Netherlands : Kuilenburg, VII.1890, 1 ♂ (coll. de Meijere) ; Valkenburg, 13.VI.1919, 1 ♀ (coll. de Meijere) in coll. Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoologie (Amsterdam).

Key to the « yellow » *Platypalpus* species from Europe :

Yellow species means that at least the sides of the thorax (pleura) are yellow in ground-colour while the mesonotum can be yellow, with a black median stripe or even extensively darkened.

1. — 1 pair of convergent vertical bristles (vt), or none distinct from the hairs on the vertex . . . . . 2
   — 2 pairs of distinct vt bristles present . . . 13

2. — 1 pair of distinct vertical bristles . . . . . 3
   — No distinct vt . . . . . 9

3. — Occiput black . . . . . 4
   — Occiput yellow (Mesonotum polished with 8-serial acrostichals, mid tibia with a small blunt spur. Fore tarsi with apical 2 or 3 segments dilated) . . . *P. luteus* (MEIGEN)
   Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 : fig. 99, 198, 365-367, 382, 701.
   Distribution : Widespread in Europe.

4. — Mesonotum completely yellow . . . . . 5
   — Mesonotum with a black median stripe or completely darkened . . . . . 8

5. — Antennal segment 3 completely white . . . 6
   — Antennal segment 3 with tip or completely darkened . . . . . 7

6. — Black spur on mid tibia short and blunt (left periandrial lamella black) . . . *P. luteoloides* sp. n.
   Illustrations : fig.2, 3.
   Distribution : Belgium and The Netherlands.

   — Black spur on mid tibia longer than tibia is deep, sharp with a recurved tip (left periandrial lamella yellow) . . . . . *P. luteolus* (COLLIN)
   Illustrations : fig. 2, 3.
   Distribution : Great-Britain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Hungary.

7. — Sternopleura dusted ; tarsi weakly annulated (spur on tibia blunt, black in male, yellow in female) . . . . . *P. leucocephalus* (VON ROSER)
No illustrations.
Distribution : Great Britain, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany and Austria.

— Sternopleura with a shining spot ; tarsi yellowish, last segment black (blunt yellow spur in both sexes) . . . . . *P. exilis* (MEIGEN)
Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 : fig. 86, 193, 348, 356-358, 698.
Distribution : throughout Europe.

8. — Long tibial spur with a recurved tip ; mesonotum dusted ; acr and dc distinct ; tarsi annulated *P. engadinicus* (MIK)
No illustrations.
Distribution : France, Italy.

— Very small pointed tibial spur ; mesonotum polished with indistinct acr and dc ; tarsi not annulated, last segment black . . . . . *P. sahlbergi* (FREY)
Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 : fig. 74, 80, 186, 317-319, 689.
Distribution : Northern Europe (Chvála, 1975).

9. — Mesonotum completely yellow ; no whitish pile on apical part of mid tibia (acr and dc evenly distributed over mesonotum) . . . . . *P. nonstriatus* (STROBL)
Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 ; fig. 63, 175, 260, 271-273, 677.
Distribution : Northern Europe and Austria (Chvála, 1975).

— Mesonotum with a dark median stripe or extensively darkened . . . . . 10

10. — Mid tibia apically dilated and covered with whitish pile. No posteroventral bristles on mid femora . . 11

— Mid tibia apically slender without whitish pile. Mid femora with rather short black posteroventral brisles (Third antennal segment shorter than deep) *P. eximius* (OLDENBERG)
Illustrations : Engel, 1956 : fig. 44.
Distribution : Central Europe.



11. — Acrostichals (acr) irregularly quadriserial, rather long and diverging. Note that the mesonotum can be uniformly darkened or with a dark median stripe P. mikii (BECKER)
Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 : fig. 54, 62, 174, 267-270, 676.
Distribution : throughout Europe especially in mountainous areas .

— Acrostichals 4 to 6-serial or acr and dc evenly distributed over the mesonotum . . . . . 12

12. — Third antennal segment slightly longer than deep ; acr 4 to 6 -serial . . . *P. inexpectatus* SMITH & CHVÁLA
Illustrations : Smith & Chvála, 1976 : fig. 6-9.
Distribution : Great-Britain.

— Third antennal segment 2 times as long as deep ; acr and dc more evenly distributed over mesonctum . . . . . *P. pectoralis* (FALLÉN)
Illustrations : Chvála, 1975 : fig. 61, 173, 259, 264-266, 675.
Distribution : Widespread in Europe except for the southern parts.

13. — Antennae completely yellow (Third antennal segment 2 times as long as deep ; acr and dc evenly distributed over mesonotum) . . . *P. dilatatovittatus* (STROBL)
No illustrations.
Distribution : Austria.

— Third antennal segment brown . . . . 14

14. — Acrostichals biserial (spur on mid tibia very small) . . . . . *P. aurantiacus* (COLLIN)
Illustrations : Smith & Chvála, 1976 : fig. 1-3.
Distribution : Great-Britain, Belgium and France.

— Acr 4-serial or acr and dc evenly distributed . . 15

15. — Acrostichals 4-serial ; third antennal segment 2.5 times as long as deep . . . *P. albomicans* (OLDENBERG)
No illustrations.
Distribution : Austria.

— Acr and dc evenly distributed over mesonotum ; third antennal segment as long as deep . . . *P. stroblii* (MIK)
No illustrations.
Distribution : Germany, Czechoslovakia.

Note : *P. teneriffensis* (BECKER, 1908) from the Canary Islands is not included in the key. The description of *P. collaris* by Meigen (1838) does not fit to the redescription by Engel (1956) so it is doubtful that *P. collaris* belongs to the « yellow » species. *P. bohemicus* ZUSKOVA, 1966 is a junior synonym of *P. stroblii* (MIK) as confirmed by Chvála (pers. comm.).

## *Platypalpus latemi* sp. n.

Black species with 1 pair of vertical bristles and a long tibial spur. Second antennal segment reddish-yellow and all abdominal tergites dusted anteriorly.

### HOLOTYPE MALE

Frons narrow, not as deep as second antennal segment, dusted. Face dusted narrowing in the middle. One pair of yellowish vertical bristles, rather close together. Second antennal segment reddish-yellow. The black third segment 2.5 times as long as deep. Arista 1.5 times as long as third segment. Occiput dusted. Palpi brown, truncate with 2 long pale bristles near the tip.

Thorax black, dusted except for the polished sternopleura. All bristles on thorax yellowish. Acrostichals short biserial not widely separated. Dorsocentrals short irregularly biserial ending in 2 pairs of longer prescutellars. One humeral, 2 notopleurals with some pubescence, 1 postalar and 1 pair of long scutellars with the usual small bristle near each.

Legs darkened. All coxae black. Front femora thickened, brown. Front tibiae brown, sligthly spindle shaped dilated. Middle femora brownish nearly twice as thick as front femora. Long yellowish posteroventral bristles present. A long sharp black spur on the middle tibiae. Base of the hind femora yellowish, apically darkened. All tarsi broadly annulated.

Abdomen black. All tergites dusted anteriorly. The cerci are simple in structure. Right cercus with a broad tip. Left cercus



somewhat smaller ending in a more conical tip. Left periandrial lamella with the apex pointed (fig. 4).

Wing membrane almost clear. Veins brown. The crossveins widely separated. Vein $R_{4+5}$ and M divergent in the middle ending parallel in the costa. Vein M sligthly bowed. Halteres white.

Body length : 2.85 mm ; wing length : 3.4 mm.

Female unknown.

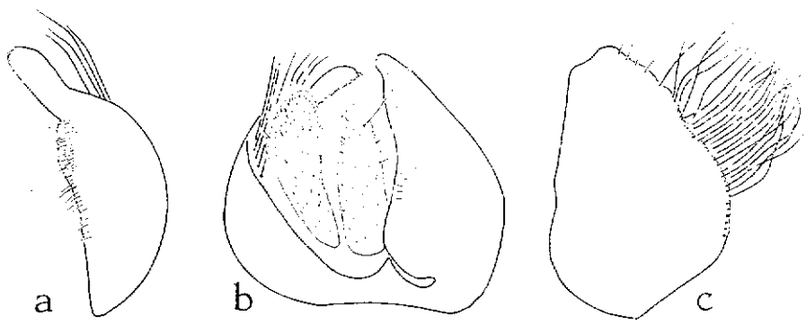


FIG. 4. — *Patypalpus latemi* sp. n. hypopygium holotype. Scale 0.2 mm

*Differential diagnosis :*

The presence of either a black or a yellow second antennal segment is usually a good character to divide the *Platypalpus* into 2 major groups so facilitating identification. There are only few exceptions which may depend upon the method of preservation e.g. in some Belgian populations of *P. laticinctus* WALKER the second antennal segment was darkened instead of being yellowish ; *P. praecinctus* (COLLIN) has a reddish second antennal joint and is placed in the group with black segments. If we consider the second joint yellow in *P. latemi* sp. n. then it must be placed near *P. laticinctus* WALKER. The latter has yellow legs, narrowly biserial acrostichals and a different hypopygium (see Chvála, 1975 : fig. 474-476). On the other hand if the second antennal segment is considered to be black then it leads to : *P. infectus* (COLLIN), *P. notatus* (MEIGEN), *P. praecinctus* (COLLIN), *P. carteri* (COLLIN), *P. strigifrons* (ZETTERSTEDT) and *P. collini*

CHVÀLA. The differences are put in the following key : Third antennal segment at least 2.5 times as long as deep.

1. — Abdomen entirely shining black : *P. notatus* (MEIGEN) (legs darkened) and *P. strigifrons* (ZETTERSTEDT) (legs yellow, coastal species)
   — Abdomen at least dusted on the anterior tergites . 2
2. — Only the anterior 2 tergites partly dusted, usually 3 notopleural bristles . . . . *P. infectus* (COLLIN)
   — All abdominal tergites dusted anteriorly . . . 3
3. — Legs yellowish (even coxae), only tarsi annulated . . . . . *P. praecinctus* (COLLIN)
   — Legs darkened . . . . . 4
4. — Arista as long as third antennal segment. Acrostichals irregularly bi- to triserial . . . *P. carteri* (COLLIN)
   — Arista 1.5 times as long as third antennal segment. Acrostichals biserial . . . . . *P. latemi* sp. n.

In *P. collini* (CHÀLA) all abdominal tergites are also broadly dusted but this species has a shorter third antennal segment (2 times as long as deep) and longer arista (Chvála, 1965 : fig. 1).

*Type material* :

Holotype : Belgium, Sint Martens-Latem, 26.VII-2.VIII.1981 ; captured with Malaise trap. (leg. P. Grootaert). Conserved in alcohol in coll. I.R.S.N.B.. Hypopygium in slide nr. 81.08.05.01.

*Type locality* :

Sint Martens-Latem, province Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium. The Malaise trap with which the species was captured was placed in a garden in between a row of *Pinus* sp. and *Salix* sp.. The species is named after the abbreviated name of the type locality.

**Acknowledgements**

The author thanks Dr. M. CHVÁLA for his comments during the study. The Nationaal Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek and the Charles University provided grants for a study in Prague.



**Summary**

Three *Platypalpus* species are described : *P. dessarti* sp. n., *P. luteoloides* sp. n. and *P. latemi* sp. n. A key is given for the yellow *Platypalpus* occuring in Europe. The hypopygium of *P. luteolus* (COLLIN) is illustrated.

**Résumé**

Trois nouvelles espèces de *Platypalpus* sont décrites : *P. dessarti* n. sp., *P. luteoloides* n. sp. and *P. latemi* n. sp. Une clef est donnée pour les espèces jaune de *Platypalpus* d'Europe. L'hypopygium de *P. luteolus* (COLLIN) est illustré.

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