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Description of a new *Platypalpus* species,
closely allied to *P. minutus* Meigen
(Diptera Empidoidea Hybotidae) from Europe

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Submitted for publication: 25th March 1987.
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Summary

Platypalpus australominutus sp. n., sister species of *P. minutus* (MEIGEN, 1804) is described and illustrated. Both species generally occur together and can only be distinguished in the male by the structure of the hypopygium. A lectotype is designated for *P. minutus*.

Résumé

Platypalpus australominutus sp. n., espèce soeur de *P. minutus* (MEIGEN, 1804) est décrit et illustré. Les deux espèces sont en général présentes ensemble et ne peuvent être distinguées que dans le sexe mâle. Un lectotype est désigné pour *P. minutus*.

Introduction

Platypalpus minutus is the most common *Platypalpus* species in Belgium. It is found all over the country in a large variety of biotopes. It was found in old dunes at the coast (GROOTAERT & POLLET, 1988), in gardens (GROOTAERT, 1985), in orchards, in deciduous forests, in wheat fields, on the edges of meadows and even in heath land (Hautes Fagnes) at an altitude of 700 m. CHVÁLA gives as distribution North, West and Central Europe but warns for records from South Europe. Indeed, three males caught by Mr. Ch. VERBEKE near the mediterranean coast looked externally identical to *P. minutus* but examination of the hypopygium showed that they were different from our northern *minutus*. All Belgian material was re-examined and this new species was found also here. Meanwhile it was found in Great-Britain, Netherlands, Germany, France but not yet in Czechoslovakia (CHVÁLA, pers. comm.) nor in Scandinavia (JONASSEN, pers. comm.). Since the distribution of this new species is mainly in the south and temperate region, it was called *P. australominutus*, the *minutus* from the South.

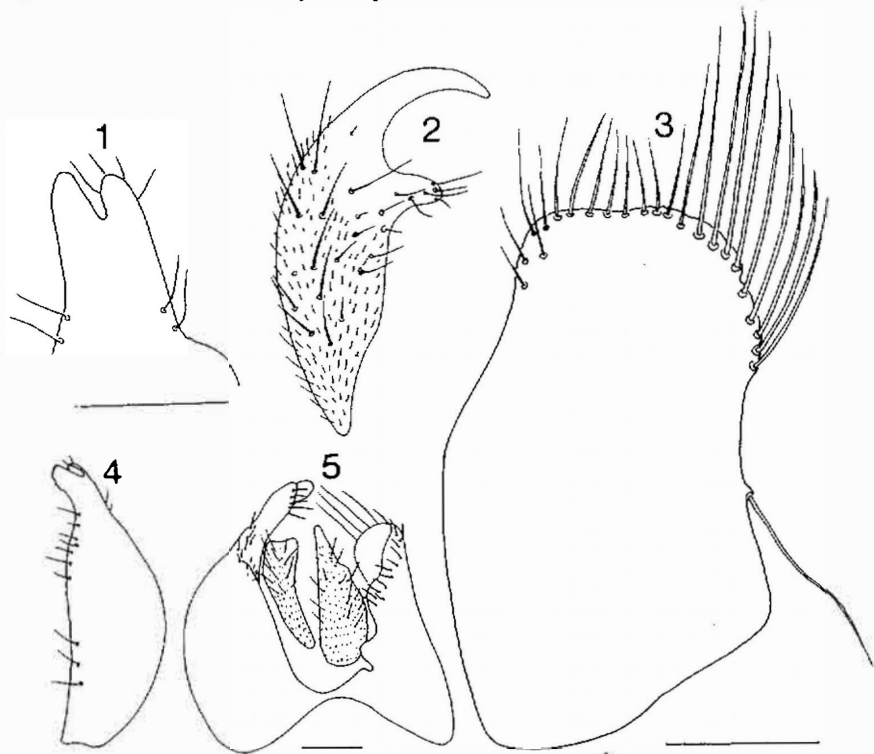
Platypalpus minutus (MEIGEN, 1804)

figs 1-5

Tachydromia minuta MEIGEN, 1804: 238*Tachydromia exigua* MEIGEN, 1822: 81*Tachydromia pygmaea* MACQUART, 1823: 154

For a detailed description of *P. minutus* we refer to COLLIN (1961: 131, Figs 49, 50) and to CHVÁLA (1975: 153, Figs 103, 206, 207, 389-391, 707). Their descriptions of the external morphology do not differ in fact from the following description of *P. australominutus*.

Diagnosis: a medium-sized black species with one pair of vertical bristles and black antennae. Mesonotum somewhat subshining grey dusted but with a shining stripe over the acrostichals. Front tibiae apically with a protruding rim. A long pointed spur on the middle tibiae. Projection on tip of right periandrial lamella with a slit, tips of the bifurcation rounded. Left cercus with only two spines.



Figs 1-5: *Platypalpus minutus* (MEIGEN) hypopygium male: 1. V-shaped tip of right periandrial lamella; 2. left cercus; 3. left periandrial lamella; 4. right lamella; 5. hypopygium. Scale line: 0.1 mm.

Male hypopygium: Right periandrial lamella ending in a projection with a narrow slit (Fig. 1); the tips are rounded. At the base of this projection, a few scattered hairs are found. Basal border of right lamella, facing hypandrium, with a few bristle-like hairs. Left cercus (Fig. 2) with two spines directed towards epiproct: a long pointed dorsal one and a short blunt basal spine. Left lamella with only one long bristle on basal border facing hypandrium. Shape of tip of left lamella somewhat different from that in *P. australominutus*; distribution of the bristles also different (Fig. 3).

Material examined:

The type series in the Muséum nat. in Paris consists of two males. One male, designated here as the lectotype, has the antennae missing and is moulded. The other male from the series labeled *Tachydromia minuta* ♂ is in fact a *P. annulatus*. See also COLLIN (1961, 133-134).

Belgium: ANTWERPEN: Balen, Hoogstraten, Lichtaart, Merksem, Mol, Postel, Schoten, Turnhout, Zoersel. BRABANT: Archennes, Auderghem, Bruxelles, Foret de Soignes, Ganshoren, Genval, Hoegaarden, Linkebeek, Mont St. Pierre, Neerhespen, Nethen, Ottignies, Rode St. Genèse, Septfontaines, St. Job, Sterrebeek, Veltem, Wemmel, Winksele. HAINAUT: Ellezelles, Forge Philippe, Henripont, Virelles. LIÈGE: Antheit, Beyne, Bleret, Clavier, Eben-Emael, Ferrières, Filot, Fonds de Foret, Hockai, Jalhay, Lanaye, Lixhe, Loen, Logne, Malmédy, Manderfeld, Moresnet, Sy, Terwange, Trooz, Visé, Wanze, Werbomont, Xhoris. LIMBURG: Lommel, Remersdael, Sint Truiden. LUXEMBOURG: Baraque Fraiture, Chanly, Chatillon, Durbuy, Ethe-Buzenol, Hotton, Jupille, Ozo-Izier, Torgny, Virton. NAMUR: Bouge, Couvin, Gembloux, Erpent, Falaen, Frasnes, Liernu, Onoz-Spy, Treignes. OOST-VLAANDEREN: Aalter, Assenede, Boekhoutte, De Pinte, Destelbergen, Eke, Gent, Heusden, Louise-Marie, Maal, Melle, Merelbeke, Munte, Nukerke, Overmere, St. Jan in Eremo, St. Martens Latem, Terdonk. WEST-VLAANDEREN: Blankenberge, De Panne, Gistel, Knokke, Koksijde, Leffinge, Lo, Lombardsijde, Nieuwpoort, Oostende, Oostkamp, Poperinge, Raversijde, Snellegem, Torhout, Wenduine, Westkapelle, Westkerke, Wevelgem, Wingene, Woumen, Zandvoorde, Zeebrugge, Zedelgem.

France: Hautes-Pyrénées: Lourdes, 20-26.VI.1986, 5 ♀, leg. G. HAGHEBAERT; Rambouillet, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, coll. VILLENEUVE; Auvergne, Besse-en-Chandesse, 29.VI.1981, 1 ♀.

Great Britain: Beaulieu, New Forest; Bembridge, Isle of Wight; Clifford Castle, Herefordshire; Corfe Castle, Dorsetshire; Oxford; Porthcawl, Glamorganshire; Kings Somdorn, Hants.; Noirmont, Jersey; Wood Walton, Hunts.; Ringwood, Hants.; Felden, Herts.; Studland, Dorset; Woodbridge, Suffolk; Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire. All this material is conserved in the British Museum.

Italy: Val Venosta, Prato a Selvio (1.000 m), 15.VI.1985, 2 ♂, 2 ♀.

Distribution:

P. minutus is known from all parts of North, West and Central Europe. Fig. 12 gives the present known distribution in Belgium. It is reported from 125 localities and from 80 U.T.M.-quadrants. It is doubtless present all over the country since the map in fact reflects the sampled localities for *Platypalpus* species in Belgium.

Bionomics:

P. minutus is frequently seen on the surface of leaves from bushes and trees where it feeds on small Diptera and Hymenoptera. It has two peaks of activity suggesting two

generations. It would take about 100 to 120 days for one generation as could be seen from Malaise trap catches.

Activity starts near the end of May, *P. minutus* is not so early as *P. agilis*, and it reaches a peak of activity during June. Then the activity declines to almost nil in July as was shown by Malaise traps. The second period of activity is during August and September but it is not as high as the spring peak. Fig. 6 gives the sum of all data from museum collections and year cycles performed by Malaise traps.

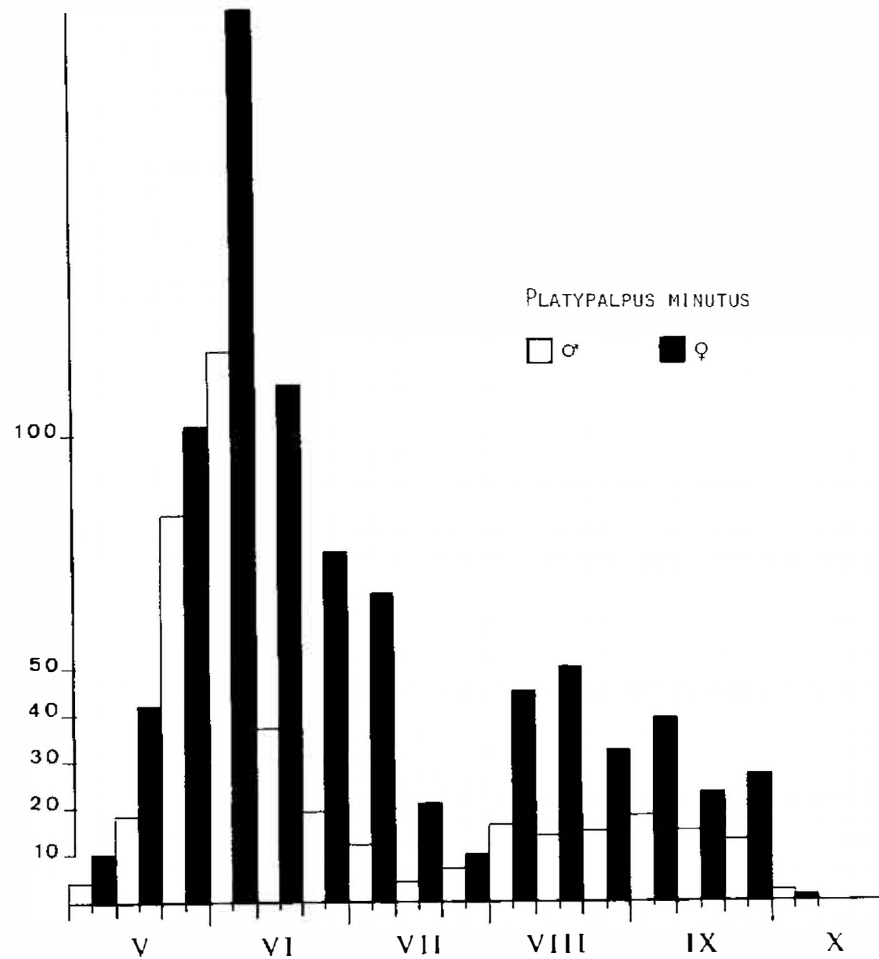


Fig. 6. Phenology of *P. minutus*.

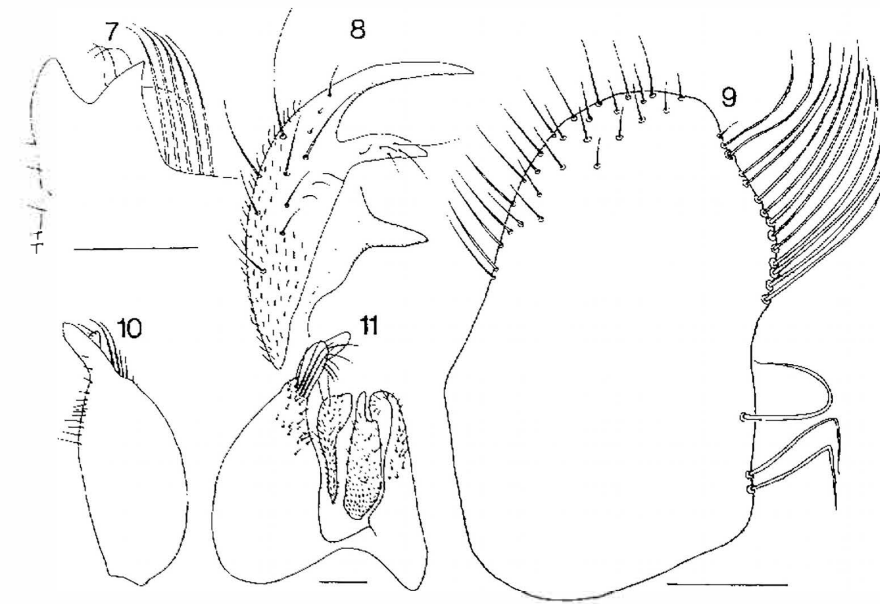
***Platypalpus australominutus* sp. n.**

Figs 7-11

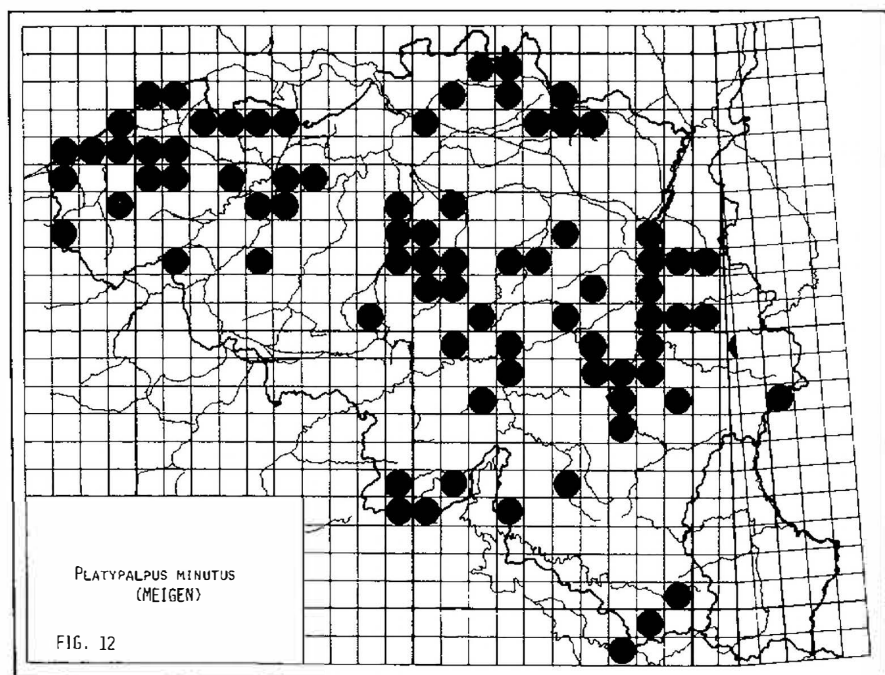
Diagnosis: a medium-sized black species with one pair of vertical bristles and black antennae. Mesonotum somewhat subshining grey dusted but with a shining stripe over the acrostichals. Front tibiae apically with a protruding rim. A long pointed spur on the middle tibiae. Tip of right periandrial lamella with a wide V-shaped projection. The tips of this bifurcation pointed. Left cercus with three pointed spines.

Male:

Frons in front about as deep as second antennal segment; slightly widening above towards front ocellus; somewhat subshining grey dusted. Face a little narrower than front of frons, silvery grey dusted but clypeus and jowls below eyes shining black. Anterior pair of ocellars pale, half the length of third antennal segment. Verticals hardly longer than ocellars, also pale and tiny. Occiput thickly grey dusted. Bristles above indistinct; below larger, white and more densely set. Antennae black. Third segment conical, about two and a half times as long as deep, arista one and a half times as long as third segment. Palpi somewhat pointed, black in ground-colour, silvery grey dusted and with two pale subterminal bristles nearly as long as palpus.



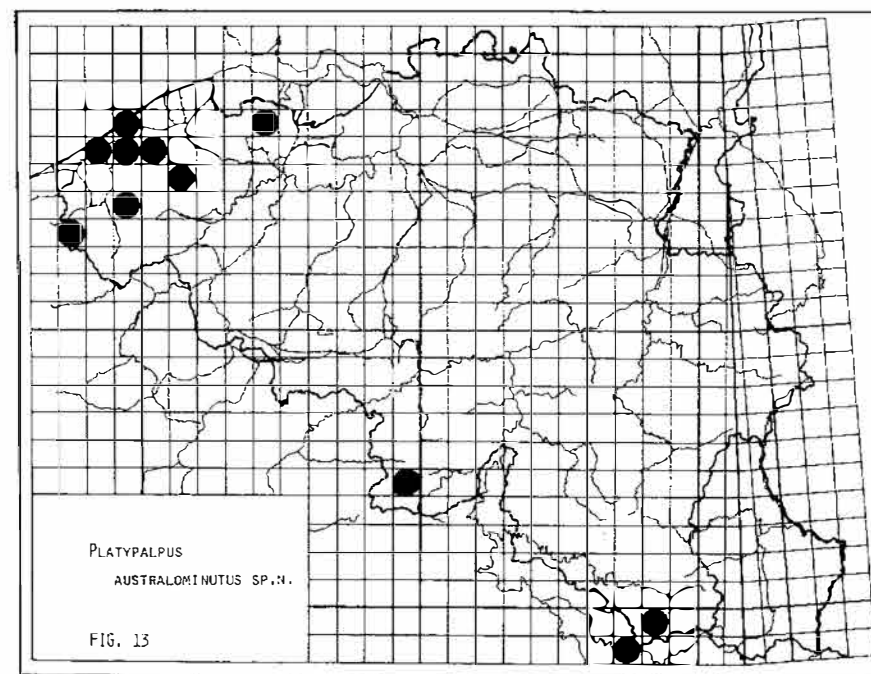
Figs 7-11: *Platypalpus australominutus* sp. n. paratype male hypopygium: 7. tip of right periandrial lamella; 8. left cercus; 9. left periandrial lamella; 10. right lamella; 11. hypopygium. Scale: 0.1 mm.



Figs 12-13: Distribution of *Platypalpus minutus* and *P. australominutus* sp. n. in Belgium.

Thorax black. Mesonotum with a brownish tinged grey dusting and a shining black median stripe along the row of acrostichals. Sides of humeri polished black. Pleura coarsely silvery grey dusted except for the polished anterior half of the sternopleura. All hairs and bristles rather pale brownish. Acrostichals not very long (longer than second antennal segment), biserial, sometimes somewhat irregular. Dorsocentrals as long as acrostichals, ending in a pair of prescutellars. A strong, brown not very long notopleural with some hairs in the notopleural depression. A postalar and a pair of scutellars with a fine hair near each.

Legs bicoloured black and yellow but the pattern somewhat variable. All coxae black but tip of front coxae may be yellowish. All trochanters yellowish. Hind trochanters with a black patch. Front femora black but extreme base and apical fifth yellow; middle femora with basal sixth and extreme tip yellow; hind femora with basal third and tip yellow. Tibiae yellow to brownish. Tarsi sharply annulated black. Front coxae grey dusted with long pale hairs. Front femora distinctly thickened, nearly as deep as the middle femora and with a double row of long yellow ventral bristles nearly as long as femur is deep. Front tibiae rather stout, somewhat arched dorsoventrally; preapically with a brown rim posteroventrally. Dorsally with three short brown bristly hairs. On apical half, ventrally and posteroventrally with yellow hairs as long as tibia is deep. Metatarsus also with long hairs



ventrally and posteroventrally. Middle femora a little stouter than front ones. Posteroventrally with 7-8 yellow bristles about half as long as femur is deep. Middle tibiae with a long pointed black spur. Hind femora slender with indistinct hairs ventrally.

Wings almost hyaline with brown veins being yellowish near base. Costal almost parallel throughout. Crossveins separated for a short distance. The vein closing the anal cell straight; Squamae yellowish with a pale fringe. Halteres pale yellow. Abdomen completely shining black, bearing some short scattered yellowish hairs. Hypopygium shining black. Tip of right periandrial lamella with a V-shaped projection (Fig. 7); tips of the V sharply pointed. At the base of the projection some yellowish bristles that are longer than the projection. Right cercus with a blunt tip. Left cercus with three pointed spines (Fig. 8). Left periandrial lamella with multiseriate, short hairs on tip; left border with long bristles near tip and three long bristles near base (Fig. 9).

Female: No characters have been found yet to distinguish it from female *minutus*.

Type material:

Holotype male: Belgium, Leffinge, 22.V.1986, leg. G. HAGHEBAERT. Paratypes: Belgium, Gistel, 20.IX.1986, 1 ♂; Oostende, 22-30.V.1987, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Raversijde, 17-24.V.1986, 1 ♂; Zandvoorde, Keignaart, 1 ♂, leg. G. HAGHEBAERT; Ethe-Buzenol, 19.V-2.VI.1981, 1 ♂; 2-16.VI.1987, 1 ♂, 1 ♀; Torgny, 3.IX.1980, 1 ♂; 18-21.V.1981, 3 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀, leg. P. GROOTAERT; Poperinge, 1.VI.1985, 3 ♂♂; 7.VI.1985, 1 ♂; 14.VI.1985, 1 ♂, leg. L. DE BRUYN; Wijnendale bos,

25.V-1.VI.1986, 1 ♂; 1987, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, leg. M. POLLET; Virelles, 21.VI.1986, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, leg. N. MAGIS; Woumen (Blankaart), 3.VIII.1986, 1 ♂, leg. B. GODDEERIS; Boekhoute, 25.V-9.VI.1985, 1 ♂, leg. D. VAN DEN NEUKER; Wingene (Gulke putten), 9-16.VI.1987, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, leg. K. DECLER.
 Netherlands: Amsterdam, 6.VI.1986, 1 ♂; 15.VI.1986, 1 ♂; 18.VI.1986, 1 ♂ leg. G. KROON; Slotersplaspark WNW, 29.V.1986, 1 ♂, leg. V. VAN DER GOOT.
 France: Var, La Cadière d'Azur, 24.IV.1984, 3 ♂♂, leg. Ch. VERBEKE. Hautes-Pyrénées: Lourdes, 20-26.VI.1986, 1 ♂, leg. G. HAGHEBAERT.
 Great-Britain: Knebworth, Herts., 13.V.1923, 1 ♂, F. W. EDWARDS; Palling Norfolk, 17.VII.1904, 1 ♂, G. H. VERRALL (as *T. annulata*); Sutton Wick, Berks., 15.VII.1881, 1 ♂, G. W. VERRALL. (British Museum Nat. Hist.).

Discussion:

P. australominutus is usually found in low quantities among *P. minutus*. That is also the reason why the females are not yet recognized. So it is present in the same biotopes as *P. minutus*. As can be seen on fig. 13, *P. australominutus* is mainly found in the lowland and in the extreme South of Belgium. However, it is certainly not excluded that it is present all over the country when better sampled. *P. australominutus* is now known from Belgium, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France and Germany (A. STARK, pers. comm.).

There has been a lot of confusion in the recognition of *P. minutus* and *P. annulatus* with the early authors such as MEIGEN, FALLÉN and ZETTERSTEDT. COLLIN revised all their collections and gave a summary of the confused situation in his monograph of 1961. In Meigen's collection in Paris there are two specimens above the label *T. minuta*. One male bearing the label *Tachydromia minuta* ♂ is in fact a *P. annulatus* (FALLÉN). The other male is indeed a *P. minutus*. Unfortunately it is in a quite bad condition since the antennae are missing and being somewhat moulded. The genitalia correspond with those figured by COLLIN (1961) and CHVÁLA (1975). COLLIN took the wise decision to leave the nomenclature as such.

Above the label *T. exigua* MEIGEN, there is a small female of *P. minutus* which is considered as holotype and now labeled as such. Since we are not able yet to recognize female *australominutus*, *T. exigua* is considered as a junior synonym of *P. minutus*.

T. pygmea MACQUART was synonymized by MACQUART himself with *P. minutus*. We did not find the type material of this species in Macquart's collection.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to Mr. Ch. VERBEKE, G. HAGHEBAERT, Dr. L. MATILE (Paris), Dr. M. CHVÁLA (Prague), Dr. A. STARK (Halle) and Dr. A. PONT (London) for their help in gathering the material.

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 GROOTAERT, P. & POLLET, M., 1989. - Dansvliegen of Empididae (Diptera) van het Westhoekreservaat te De Panne. *Phegea* 17: 31-33.

Une espèce paléarctique nouvelle du genre *Sarcophaga* Meigen (Diptera, Sarcophagidae)

par Andy Z. LEHRER

Manuscrit accepté le 19.I.1988.

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Résumé

On décrit une espèce nouvelle de la famille des Sarcophagidae: *Sarcophaga wiesenthalii* n. sp., trouvée en Roumanie. On établit aussi un *nomen nudum* et quelques nouvelles synonymes de cette espèce.

Summary

A new species from the family Sarcophagidae is described: *Sarcophaga wiesenthalii* n. sp., found in Romania. A *nomen nudum* and some new synonyms are established for this species.

Dans une petite collection de diptères, réalisée au début du siècle (1901-1919) par le Dr Zoltan SZILADY (ancien professeur au collège « Gabriel BETHLEN » et curateur du musée de la localité d'Aiud, district d'Alba) et conservée dans l'actuel Musée des Sciences naturelles d'Aiud, nous avons trouvé quelques spécimens de Sarcophagines. Parmi ceux-ci, deux mâles et quatre femelles, ont été erronément appelés « *Sarcophaga carnaria* L. » par le diptérologue hongrois, sans que les genitalia des mâles n'aient été étudiés.

Après vérification, nous avons constaté qu'un de ces mâles appartient à une espèce nouvelle du genre *Sarcophaga* MEIGEN et nous la décrivons ci-dessous.