

First record of the genus *Atanycolus* Foerster (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Braconinae) from the Benelux

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Abstract

A conspicuous parasitoid of Cerambycidae, *Atanycolus initiator* (Fabricius, 1793) is reported for the first time from Belgium and the Benelux. It is also the first record of the genus *Atanycolus* Foerster, 1862, for this area.

Keywords: Braconidae; Braconinae; *Atanycolus initiator*; Palaearctica; Belgium; Benelux.

Résumé

Un remarquable parasite des Cerambycidae, *Atanycolus initiator* (Fabricius, 1793) est signalé pour la première fois de Belgique et du Benelux. C'est aussi la première fois que le genre *Atanycolus* Foerster, 1862 est signalé pour cette zone.

Introduction

The genus *Atanycolus* Foerster, 1862 (Braconidae: Braconinae) is a small genus containing external idioparasitoids of larvae of mainly Cerambycidae (Coleoptera). In Europe (excluding Caucasus) ten species are recognized but all are rarely collected despite that they are medium-sized (around 7 mm body length) plus a long ovipositor, have an aberrant scapus and a conspicuous yellowish metasoma. However, most reports need to be checked because the taxonomy of the genus is in need of revision and the species are easily confused.

From the Benelux there is only an old record by Wesmael (1838) from Belgium (surroundings of Brussels) but this is a misidentification; the large series belongs to *Coeloides scolyticida* Wesmael, 1838. Despite extensive collecting by the second author the genus has never been collected in The Netherlands. Surprisingly, the first author collected September 5th, 2004, in the Famenne (Namur region; Belgium) a female of an *Atanycolus* species which was identified by the second author as *A. initiator* (Fabricius). It is the first reliable record of the genus for the Benelux.

There is one old record of *Atanycolus initiator* (Fabricius, 1793) from the British Isles by Curtis (1837) but it is considered invalid by Shaw & Quicke (1999) and the genus should be deleted

from the British checklist. According to Uthoff-Kaufmann (1990) *A. neesii* (Marshall, 1897) occurs in the British Isles. Dr Mark Shaw (pers. comm.) kindly made clear to us that there is no evidence that the records reiterated by Uthoff-Kaufmann came from Britain, and he remains convinced that the genus *Atanycolus* has never been found in Britain.

Atanycolus initiator (Fabricius, 1793)

Material: 1♀ (Personal collection of the first author), "Belgique, Somal, Bois de Failon, sur troncs abattus de *Quercus* sp. au soleil, 5.IX.2004, P.-N. Libert".

Notes.- *A. initiator* can be recognized by the largely yellowish vertex, the widely crenulate second metasomal suture, the ovipositor sheath about as long as the body or somewhat shorter, the first tergite yellowish and the third tergite without a distinct transverse groove posteriorly. The tarsal claws are inconspicuously pectinate and the third tergite is smooth.

It was found sunning on oak trunks cut down recently in a deciduous forest (mainly consisting of *Quercus* sp. trees) in Somal, a small village near Marche-en-Famenne on the border of the two natural regions Condroz and Famenne (coordinates UTM 31U FR6577).

Acknowledgements

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References

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Update of the Belgian list of *Empis* s.str. species (Diptera Empididae), with some new records for the Belgian fauna

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Abstract

An annotated check list is given for the Belgian *Empis* subgenus *Empis*. Twenty six species are reported, among them six are recorded for the first time in Belgium: *E.* (s.str.) *genualis* STROBL, *E.* (s.str.) *levis* LOEW, *E.* (s.str.) *melanotricha* LOEW, *E.* (s.str.) *pilosa* LOEW, *E.* (s.str.) *pseudonuntia* SYROVÁTKA and *E.* (s.str.) *syrovatkai* CHVÁLA.

Keywords: Diptera, Empididae, *Empis*, Belgium, checklist, new records.

Introduction

Eighteen species of the subgenus *Empis* are cited in the Belgian catalogue of the Empididae (GROOTAERT, 1991). However, in that time, we had to wait for CHVÁLA's (1994) well illustrated key and re-descriptions in his book in the series of "The Empidoidea (Diptera) of Fennoscandia" before we could identify our *Empis* fauna accurately and eventually recognize new species for our fauna.

Below we present an updated annotated check list of *Empis* s.str. and comment on new species

for the Belgian fauna. We provide also detailed distributional data for the species that were cited in the Red data book of the empidids (GROOTAERT *et al.*, 2001), but that were not yet included in the old catalogue (GROOTAERT, 1991).

Material and methods

Apart from some exceptions indicated in the text, all material is conserved in the collections of the RBINS. All data are kept in the database EMPISDAT and LOCDAT.