



## First record of *Meligramma cingulata* (Egger 1860) in Belgium (Diptera, Syrphidae)

Frank VAN DE MEUTTER

Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ch.-Debériotstraat 32 3000 Leuven (e-mail: Frank.VandeMeutter@bio.kuleuven.be).

### Abstract

This short note reports the finding of a new Syrphid species, *Meligramma cingulata*, for the Belgian fauna at Daverdisse on 6 May 2007. The locality where it was found is described, and an overview of the ecological requirements and the current status of *M. cingulata* in Europe provided.

**Keywords:** Syrphidae, *Meligramma cingulata*, Belgian fauna, coniferous forest.

### Samenvatting

Deze bijdrage vermeldt de eerste waarneming van de zweefvlieg *Meligramma cingulata* voor België. Een korte beschrijving van de omgeving waar de vangst gebeurde, en een overzicht van de ecologische vereisten en de huidige status van de soort in Europa wordt gegeven.

### Record details

A male of *Meligramma* (= *Melangyna*) *cingulata* was caught on 6.V.2006 close to 'le Moulin de Daverdisse' (Daverdisse, Province of Luxembourg, UTM FR512437, 248 m ASL; identification with VAN VEEN, 2004; collected and pinned on styrofoam, leg. Frank Van de Meutter, Fig. 1). The forest at Daverdisse is part of a large woodland (about 1000 ha) that stretches from Daverdisse to the northeast (approx. to St.-Hubert). It was caught in the morning sun-bathing on tree foliage along a woodland track next to a tributary of the nearby river Lesse. The forest near Daverdisse is dominantly deciduous, but large plantations of *Picea abies* are present, especially in the lower part of the valley. Due to a cold spring that year, only 29 syrphid species were caught that day at this location, amongst others *Heringia pubescens* (Delucchi & Pschorn-Walcher, 1955), *Brachyopa testacea* (Fallén, 1817) and *B. vittata* (Zetterstedt, 1843).

*M. cingulata* is a mountainous species found throughout Europe from Northern France



Fig. 1: *Meligramma cingulata* male 6.V.2006, Daverdisse

(Vosges) over Poland and Czech Republic through the Alps into former Yugoslavia (SPEIGHT 2007). It is also reported from the Pyrenees (France and Spain) and some other elevated parts of France. Only one set of records comes from a lowland area in the French Atlantic

zone (Sarthe). SPEIGHT (2007) notes the absence of this species in the Ardennes as surprising, indicating that this recent finding in Belgium was not unexpected. *M. cingulata* is lacking from the key of VERLINDEN (1991) which was the main key used by Belgian syrphid amateurs until recently. *M. cingulata* looks and behaves quite inconspicuous and was first seen by the author for an aberrant *Meligramma triangulifera* (Zetterstedt, 1843), from which - at first sight - it only slightly differs by the shape of the spots on the abdomen. Therefore, previous catches may have been regarded aberrant *M. triangulifera* or even *Melanostoma* sp. (it was regarded a *Melanostoma* until 1976!) and gone by unnoticed. No reports exist on a recent range shift in this species, so possibly this species has been overlooked until now. Conform most other Syrphinae, larvae of *M. cingulata* are carnivorous on aphids (SPEIGHT 2007). Its observed association with *Picea* and *Abies* forest (SPEIGHT 2007) may be due to a preference for aphids specialized on these trees, a specialization that exists in other Syrphinae too (e.g. *Dasysyrphus*, SPEIGHT 2007). Although nice patches of *Picea* forest are present at Daverdisse (populated by several conifer-associated species, see higher), larger and older *Picea* forests occur more easterly in the Belgian Ardenne (e.g. near St.-Hubert and Hautes Fagnes) and other

populations may be (mainly?) expected in these areas.

### Conclusion

*Meligramma cingulata* was recorded for the first time from Belgium at Daverdisse in 2006. Based on its European distribution and habitat preferences, this finding in the Belgian Ardenne was not unexpected. Possibly, this inconspicuous species has been overlooked or may simply have been misidentified by users of the Belgian key of VERLINDEN (1991), in which it is lacking. The challenge now remains to confirm populations of *M. cingulata* in Belgium, and to establish the species' current distribution.

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## New observations of *Orthonevra intermedia* (Lundbeck, 1916) and *Sphaerophoria loewi* (Zetterstedt, 1843) (Diptera: Syrphidae) for Belgium

Frank VAN DE MEUTTER

Laboratory of Aquatic Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Ch. de Bériotstraat 32, B-3000 Leuven (e-mail: Frank.VandeMeutter@Bio.kuleuven.be).

### Abstract

This paper reports the rediscovery of two species of Syrphidae, *Orthonevra intermedia* and *Sphaerophoria loewi*, for the Belgian fauna. *O. intermedia* was considered extinct in Belgium since no records were known for more than 50 years. Of *S. loewi*, only three historical records were known, of which only one after 1950. I further present some data on the observed habitat and behaviour, and discuss the current status of both species in Europe.

**Keywords:** *Orthonevra intermedia*/ *Sphaerophoria loewi*/ Belgian fauna/ Syrphidae.