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A review of Palaearctic *Teuchophorus*, with a new species from Bulgaria (Diptera: Dolichopodidae)

MARC A.A. POLLET[1] & MIHAIL KECHEV[2]

[1]*Research Group Terrestrial Ecology, Dept of Biology, Ghent University (UGent), K.L.Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium, and Dept of Entomology, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (IRSNB), Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. E-mail: mp@iwt.be*
[2]*Dept of Zoology, University of Plovdiv, 24 Tsar Assen Str., Plovdiv 4000 (Bulgaria). E-mail: mkechev@pu.acad.bg*

Abstract

The Palaearctic species of *Teuchophorus* are reviewed and a key provided to males. *T. chaetifemoratus* is described as new from Bulgaria. The male of this species is easily recognized by the ventral and posteroventral rows of strong curved bristles on the hind femur and, in contrast to all other Palaearctic species, its hind tibia does not show any peculiar chaetotaxy. It shares the same habitat preference as most of its Western European congeners, whereas Mediterranean species occur in more open habitats. *T. simplex* Mik is recorded for the first time from Bulgaria. *T. bisetus* Loew is reinstated as a distinct species, whereas *T. tenuemarginatus* Strobl most probably does not belong to *Teuchophorus* and is regarded as nomen dubium. In contrast to the literature, European, African and some Oriental *Teuchophorus* species have 6 dorsocentral bristles instead of 5, and the entire generic range encompasses 4 to 6 dorsocentral bristles. Two morphological features are found in both sexes of all *Teuchophorus* species and are the only reliable characters to separate this genus from *Sympycnus* (sensu lato): the oblique position of crossvein dm-cu and the anterior bend at the base of the distal section of vein M_1.

Key words: *Teuchophorus chaetifemoratus*, *Teuchophorus bisetus*, *Teuchophorus tenuemarginatus*, *Sympycnus*, Europe, Palaearctic, ecology

Introduction

Teuchophorus Loew is a genus of small (1.5–4 mm), rather stout species in the subfamily Sympycninae, mostly featuring a basal swelling of the costal vein and modified hind tibiae in the male (e.g. Becker 1917–1918; Parent 1938; d'Assis Fonseca 1978). In the Old World tropics, these characters seem to become more diffuse which renders the separation of this genus with *Sympycnus* Loew considerably more difficult (Meuffels & Grootaert 2004). Another diagnostic feature used by most authors to define *Teuchophorus* is the presence of 5 dorsocentrals (versus 6 in *Sympycnus*).

Teuchophorus seems most diverse in the Oriental (53 species) and Australasian Regions (37 species) (e.g. Grootaert 2006; Meuffels & Grootaert 1986, 2004). Other regions have fewer numbers of described species: Palaearctic (17), Afrotropical (7) and Nearctic Regions (4). In the Oriental Region, more than 10 species are known from Thailand, Singapore, China and Indonesia, whereas Indonesian New Guinea and Papua New Guinea are the only known hotspots in the Australasian realm. Thus far only two species have been reported from Australia itself (Bickel 1983) and none from New Zealand.

Central and Western European species (*T. calcaratus* (Meigen), *T. monacanthus* Loew, *T. nigricosta* von Roser, *T. simplex* Mik, *T. spinigerellus* Zetterstedt) are closely related and form a distinct clade within Euro-

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