



A review of the *luteitarsis* group of the genus *Pipiza* Fallén (Diptera: Syrphidae) with description of a new species from the Balkan Peninsula

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Abstract

The *luteitarsis* species group of the aphidophagous genus *Pipiza* Fallén is defined as a monophyletic unit and the European species of this group are revised. Based on material from Serbia found at two lowland localities, *P. luteibarba* n. sp. is described. This species is closely related to *P. luteitarsis* Zetterstedt and *P. accola* Violovitsh. A key for the West Palaearctic species of the *Pipiza luteitarsis* species group is provided and records of all species from the Balkan Peninsula are presented. The distribution of the new species is discussed and conservation implications considered.

Key words: *Pipiza luteitarsis*, *Pipiza luteibarba*, new species, Syrphidae, Balkan Peninsula, West Palaearctic

Introduction

Hoverflies (Diptera, Syrphidae) are a large insects group with presently 829 described species in West Palaearctic including Russia (Fauna Europaea Web Service 2004). Knowledge of biological diversity is a basal step in investigation of ecology, biogeography, evolutionary and conservation biology.

The Balkan and Iberian Peninsulas are sources of large species diversity in Europe due to climatic oscillations during the Pleistocene (Hewitt 2000; 2004). Recent publications concerning hoverfly diversity in these areas include descriptions of new species (Nielsen 2004; Claussen & Ståhls 2007; Vujić *et al.* 2007), revisions of some taxa (Marcos-García *et al.* 2007; Vujić *et al.* 2008) and integrative taxonomy studies with implications for conservation priorities (Mengual *et al.* 2006; Milankov *et al.* 2007).

Species of genus *Pipiza* Fallén are medium-sized, blackish flies with aphidophagous larvae. Adults prefer habitats on the forest edge and larvae are most often predators of gall-forming aphids (Speight 2007).

Of the 17 species listed by Peck (1988) for the Palaearctic region, five are not present in Europe. The European species of the genus *Pipiza* are badly in need revision - and arguably more so than the species of any other syrphid genus. Species concepts in this genus are uncertain and the number of European species cannot be decided (Speight, 2007). For this reasons, some of the European *Pipiza* “species” referred to in recent literature are not covered by Speight (2007). At present, the genus *Pipiza* with 11 species on the Balkan Peninsula (Vujić, 2003), includes many proposed species whose status is still poorly known.

A well-defined group of Palaearctic *Pipiza* species, here named the *luteitarsis* group, is characterized by lacking a pair of ventral, longitudinal ridges at the distal end of hind femora, which is present in other *Pipiza* spp. In Europe it comprises the following species: *P. accola* Violovitsh, *P. luteitarsis* Zetterstedt and *P. quadrimaculata* (Panzer). Among material collected in Serbia, one additional species from this group was found. This new species is described here and a key for the West Palaearctic species of the *P. luteitarsis* group is provided. The biogeographical importance and conservation of the new species are discussed.