



Distribution records of *Helina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 (Diptera: Muscidae) from the Caucasus Mountains, with the descriptions of three new species

ADRIAN C. PONT

Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PW, U.K. and The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. E-mail: pont.muscidae@btinternet.com

Abstract

Previous literature on the genus *Helina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 in the Caucasus Mountains is reviewed, and records are given for 17 species from Armenia and Georgia, of which nine are new records for Armenia and eight are new records for Georgia. In addition, three new species are described: *Helina edita* **sp. nov.** (Georgia, Turkey, Russia), *Helina karina* **sp. nov.** (Armenia) and *Helina marisha* **sp. nov.** (Armenia).

Key words: Muscid flies, taxonomy, distribution, Georgia, Armenia, new records

Introduction

Helina Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 is one of the largest genera of the Muscidae and contains almost 700 species-group names (including synonyms) (Pape & Thompson 2010). The species are found in every zoogeographic region and may be very diverse in appearance. Whilst the European fauna is relatively well known (Hennig 1957, 1958; Gregor *et al.* 2002), the area of the Caucasus Mountains, which extend through Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea, is almost completely unworked.

Bigot (1880: 142) recorded *Helina quadrum* (Fabricius, 1805) from the South Caucasus, but without any precise locality. Stein (in Bezzi & Stein 1907: 639, 640) recorded *Helina reversio* (Harris, 1780) (as *duplicata* (Meigen, 1826)) and *Helina impuncta* (Fallén, 1824) from the Caucasus, the latter record repeated in Pont (1986: 143). Kalandadze & Chilingarova (1940: 519) recorded *Helina sexmaculata* (Preyssler, 1791) (as *uliginosa* (Fallén, 1825)) from Georgia. Trofimov (1965: 606) recorded *Helina reversio* (Harris, 1780) (as *duplicata* (Meigen, 1826)) from Talysh in SE Azerbaijan. Hennig (1957: 191) recorded *Helina lasiophthalma* (Macquart, 1835) from Tbilisi in Georgia, a record repeated in Pont (1986: 144) and Zimin & El'berg (1970: 534, 536). Hennig (1958: 213) also recorded *Helina sexmaculata* (Preyssler, 1791) from Tbilisi in Georgia (as *punctata* (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830)), a record repeated in Pont (1986: 150). Pont (1986: 149) also recorded *Helina reversio* (Harris, 1780) from Azerbaijan. Finally, Pont *et al.* (2005: 78) recorded six species from Armenia: *Helina arctata* Collin, 1953; *Helina evecta* (Harris, 1780); *Helina latitarsis* Ringdahl, 1924; *Helina maculipennis* (Zetterstedt, 1845); *Helina reversio* (Harris, 1780); *Helina tetrastigma* (Meigen, 1826).

The present paper records 17 species from Georgia and Armenia, of which nine are new records for Armenia and eight are new records for Georgia. In addition, three new species are described: *Helina edita* **sp. nov.** from Georgia, Turkey and the Russian Caucasus, and *Helina karina* **sp. nov.** and *Helina marisha* **sp. nov.** from Armenia.

Material and methods

All the material discussed was collected by myself, unless otherwise stated. That from Georgia was collected in 1983, when I was on the staff of the then British Museum (Natural History), London, in the area of Kazbegi on the Georgian Military Highway. The material from Armenia was collected in 2005, 2010 and 2011 when I was collab-