



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3986.1.9>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C6AC4F56-6224-41FD-90C0-C31191DF92A0>

A remarkable new species of *Chalcosyrphus* Curran from the Oriental Region (Diptera: Syrphidae)

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Abstract

Chalcosyrphus blanki sp. nov. is described from material collected in China, Thailand and Burma. The new species is outstanding because of its size and metallic blue coloration. It is remarkable that only a few specimens have been found so far, all from different countries and only with Malaise traps. The species was only collected at altitudes above 2500 m. It fits very well in the genus *Chalcosyrphus*, but cannot be placed in any existing subgenus.

Key words: new species, Oriental region, malaise trap

Introduction

The Diptera fauna of the Oriental region is the least understood of all major faunistic regions (Grootaert 2009). The last catalog Knutson *et al.* (1975) list 771 species of Syrphids for the Oriental region, but this catalog is very much outdated by now. Most Diptera groups are not revised recently and compared to other regions there is little ongoing taxonomic research. This might explain why such a remarkable fly has not been described so far.

The new species belongs to the genus *Chalcosyrphus*, the species of which have xylobiont larvae and are associated with forest habitats. This genus belongs to the tribe Xylotini, which has been revised by Hippa (1978).

Material and methods

Genitalia were macerated in 10% KOH overnight to remove soft tissue, rinsed in distilled water, and dissected under a Nikon SMZ 1500 binocular dissecting microscope. The microphotographs were made with a NIKON DS–5M camera, mounted on the microscope. The drawings of genitalia were made by aid of a drawing tube attached to a Leitz Diaplan compound microscope from a specimen placed in lactic acid. The morphology follows Merz & Haenni (2000).

Collection acronyms:

BMNH	The Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom.
CSCA	California State Collection of Arthropods, Sacramento, California, USA.
MNHN	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France.
MZH	Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki, Finland.
NHRS	Naturhistoriska Riksmuseet, Stockholm, Sweden.
QSBG	Queen Sirikit Botanic Garden—Entomology collection, Chiang Mai, Thailand