

Some recent Alpine records of various species of  
the genus *Pipizella* (Dipt., Syrphidae),  
including the second record of  
*Pipizella cantabrica* CLAUSSEN, 1994\*

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Abstract

Recent Alpine records are given of 9 *Pipizella* species; *Pipizella cantabrica* is reported for the first time from Italy.

Key words: *Pipizella* - Alps - *Pipizella cantabrica* - Italy.

Up to 1971 only three European species of *Pipizella* had been recognized. Since then a considerable number of new species have been described, mainly originating from various mountainous regions as far apart as the Cantabrian mountains in Spain, Sicily and Montenegro. It appears that it is at heights between 800 and 2300 m. that many of them are most numerous, though some of them (*P. divicoi*, *P. annulata*, *P. zeneggenensis*) occur in Belgium at much lower heights.

At present only males can be identified with confidence (male genitalia are highly individual; some species show characteristic deformations of the 3rd and/or 4th sternites). So far no complete keys have been published and the distribution of the various species is still poorly known, though LUCAS (1976) and MAIBACH *et al.* (1992) give a large number of records. Between 1982 and 1995 the author made collecting trips to various Alpine countries in the spring months (end April - end June), a period when relatively little collecting is done at greater altitudes. A similar survey of *Sphaerophoria* species has already been published (VERLINDEN, 1995).

The most interesting record concerns *Pipizella cantabrica* CLAUSSEN, 1991, a species known only from its type locality (Spain, Cordillera Cantabrica, Fuente Dé, 1080 m) where 3 males and 3 females were taken

28.VI-1.VII.1986. The species is closely related to *P. viduata* (L.): the general appearance of the male genitalia is quite similar, yet there are enough features to distinguish them. They can, however, easily be separated from *viduata* (which has normal smooth sternites), by the presence in *cantabrica* of a pronounced sharp ridge at the posterior margin of the IVth sternite.

Among the relatively few Alpine specimens of "*viduata*" I discovered two males of *cantabrica* I took 8.V.1990 at Bobbio Pellice (Italy, Piemonte, prov. Torino), one at 750 m on the valley floor, one at 1000 m. Strangely enough a third male taken the next day higher up in the valley at Villanova turned out to be a *viduata*. No females taken there show any distinguishing features.

The find is fairly remarkable as Bobbio Pellice is situated at about 100 km from the Spanish type locality. Either they are both relict populations or the species is so rare that it has been overlooked.

Records of other *Pipizella* species (Alpine regions): males only !

*Pipizella annulata* (MACQUART, 1829):

France (Alpes de Haute Provence): St Paul Ubaye (1550 m): 16.VI.1994; Barcelonnette: a) 1500 m 7.VI.1994; b) 1700 m 20.VI.1994; Le Marquet, Vallon du Lavercq (1900 m): 10.VI.1994: 2♂♂.

*Pipizella calabra* (GOELDLIN, 1974):

France (Hautes Alpes): Ceillac (Queyras): a) 4.VI.1995 (1700 m): 1♂; b) 22.VI.1995 (1900-2100 m): 8♂♂; Vars (Val d'Escreins) 1900-2100 m: 6.VI.1995; Vars St Marcellin (1800 m), 7.VI.1995: 1♂; Châteauroux: a) 4.VI.1996 (1500 m): 5♂♂; b) 17.VI.1996 (1700 m): 1♂; Vars: Val d'Escreins: 7.VI.1996: 3♂♂; b) Les Claux (2250 m): 8.VI.1996: 1♂; c) St Marcellin (1900 m): 30.V.1996: 1♂; d) Ste Catherine (2250 m) 12.VI.1996: 2♂♂; Dourmillouse (1400 m) 29.V.1996: 1♂.

*Pipizella divicoi* (GOELDLIN, 1974)

Italy: Val Venosta: Prato a. Stelvio (1000-1500 m): 11.V.82, 19.V.82, 28.V.82, 2.VI.85, 9.VI.85; Stelvio Village (1600 m): 1.VI.82, 10.VI.85; Val Pusteria: S. Lorenzo (850 m) 10.V.83; Lothar (1100 m): 19.V.83; Sesto (1300 m): 26.V.83. Dolomiti: Siusi (1100 m) 23.V.1990; Piemonte: Bobbio Pellice 13.V.1990, 14.V.1990 (1000 m); Acceglio (prov. Cuneo): 30.IV.1991 (1200 m).  
France: Barcelonnette (1700 m): 21.VI.1994; Hautes Alpes: Vars - Val d'Escreins (1900-2100 m) 6.VI.1995; St Crépin (1700 m) 14.VI.1996; Dourmillouse (1400 m) 29.V.1996.

On several occasions the species was seen in fairly large number.

*Pipizella nigriana* SEGUY, 1961:

Italy: Tubre (V. Venosta): Val d'Avigna (1600 m) 12.VI.1985: 2♂♂.  
France: Hautes Alpes: St Véran (2200 m) 19.VI.1996 (3♂♂); Châteauroux (1700 m): 17.VI.1996: 1♂; Forêt de Saluces (1700 m): 14.VI.1996: 1♂.

*Pipizella pennina* (GOELDLIN, 1974):

Italy: San Lorenzo (V. Pusteria): 1.VI.1983: 1♂.

France: Alpes de Haute Provence: V. du Lavercq (1900 m) 10.VI.94, Col du Parpaillon (2000 m) 15.VI.94; Jausiers (1700 m) 20.VI.94. Hautes Alpes: Crévoux (1500 m): 22.VI.95; Ceillac (Queyras): 23.VI.95 (1900-2100 m) (very numerous); Châteauroux: a) 1500 m: 4.VI.1996: 1♂; b) 1700 m: 17.VI.1996: 1♂; Vars: Val d'Escreins (1800 m): 7.VI.1996: 2♂♂.

*Pipizella viduata* (L., 1758) = *P. varipes* (MEIGEN)

Italy: V. Venosta: Prato a. Stelvio: 13.V.82, 2.VI.85, Lasa (800 m): 7.VI.85. V. Pusteria: S. Lorenzo: 25.V.83, 1.VI.83 (900 m), Onach (V. Badia): 30.V.83 (1100 m), V. di Casies: 19.V.83 (1200 m). Dolomiti: Siusi: 23.V.90, 29.V.90 (1100 m). V. Pellice (prov. Torino): Villanova: 9.V.90 (1200 m).

*Pipizella zeneggenensis* (GOELDLIN, 1974):

France: Alpes de Haute Provence: Barcelonnette (1500 m): 7.VI.94; Maljasset (2000 m) 10.VI.94; Col du Parpaillon (2000 m) 9.VI.94; Jausiers 14.VI.94 (1550 m), 19.VI.94 (1500 m); St. Paul Ubaye (1550 m): 16.VI.94 (numerous). Hautes Alpes: Val d'Escreins (1900 m): 6.VI.95; Vars Ste Catherine (2000 m): 15.VI.95; Vars St Marcellin (1700 m): 7.VI.95; St Crépin: 13.VI.95 (1550 m), 14.VI.95 (1700 m); Ceillac - Bois Noir (1900-2100 m): 23.VI.95 (numerous); St Crépin - Le Lauzet (1700 m): 31.V.1996 (5♂♂); Dourmillouse (1400 m): 29.V.1996 (10♂♂); Vars: a) Val d'Escreins (1800 m): 28.V.1996 (3♂♂); b) St Marcellin (1900 m): 30.V.1996 (3♂♂); Risoul (1550 m): 26.V.1996 (4♂♂); Châteauroux (1500 m): 29.V.1996 (4♂♂).

## Comments

The number of these records is not impressive, taken into account they were collected during 9 sojourns, each between three and seven weeks. No *Pipizella* at all were taken in Austria and Switzerland and very few in Piemonte, but this may be due to wet and cold weather. There are no records of *P. maculipennis* (MEIGEN), reputed rare, and relatively few of *P. nigriana* which is a summer species (MAIBACH *et al.*, 1992). It is also remarkable that no *viduata* were taken in the French Alps, though the species was fairly numerous in the Vosges and the Jura; most collecting in June 1994 to 1996 in the Alps was done at heights above 1500 m; it is possible *viduata* does not ascend that high.

The most numerous and widespread *Pipizella* appears to be *divicoi*, at least in the southern Alps; in most regions it was taken often and on several occasions in comparatively large numbers; it is less common in the southern French Alps though. On the other hand *P. zeneggenensis*, *P. pennina* and *P. calabra* appear to be much more frequent there, and they may locally be very numerous, whereas in Switzerland they are rare or - in the case of *calabra* - lacking altogether (MAIBACH *et al.*, 1992). *P.*

*pennina* and *P. calabra* were taken on stony road verges, *P. zeneggenensis* was most common on dry, sunny and rocky hay meadows. All species are most numerous among the vegetation on hot and very sunny afternoons. The above records show that in many localities two, three or even four of these species fly simultaneously.

#### Addendum: On the status of *Pipizella beckeri* BRADESCU

Among the numerous ♀♀ *Pipizella* collected in the Alps by the author one individual (Châteauroux: Rabius Valley, 1700 m) stood out because of the highly original shape of the third antennal segment. This characteristic does not figure in any of the descriptions of the females of newly discovered species (LUCAS, 1976; CLAUSSEN, 1991), nor in any keys except BRADESCU, 1991. This author does not only list this feature (illustrated by a line drawing), he also raises it to the status of species, *Pipizella beckeri* n. sp., on the evidence of two individuals, one from the Romanian mountains, the other from Zermatt (1600 m). He adds a few morphological characteristics that are not very convincing, as they are shared by many *Pipizella* specimens, both male and female. The antennae of the Châteauroux ♀, however, correspond perfectly with the figure in BRADESCU, 1991. Re-examination of the several other *Pipizella* taken in the Rabius Valley that day (17.VI.1996) and on 4.VI.1996, belonging to 4 species, yielded no result: the antennae are all normal. Deformations of various body parts is not unknown in Syrphidae. In some genera (*Chrysotoxum*, *Eupeodes*,...) it is fairly frequent, but I know of no such deformations in *Pipizella*. Whether *P. beckeri* can be accepted as bona species until a ♂ specimen is discovered is not for me to decide. A second reference to it may be useful to the author of a future key for the identification of ♀♀ *Pipizella*.

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