

*SYRPHUS MALINELLUS* SP. N. (DIPTERA, SYRPHIDAE).

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THE generic name *Syrphus* is here retained in the sense in which it has been used since 1844 when Rondani designated *Musca ribesii* L. as its type. Its use in place of *Leucozona* Schin., as has been suggested, would be directly contrary to the instructions issued by the Zoological Congress in 1913 when allowing suspension of the Rules of Nomenclature especially for such cases. In connection with this and similar cases it should be noted that the Congress at its recent Paris meeting, by indicating very clearly their support for continuity in the use of well-known names, implicitly endorsed not only these instructions, but also the principle embodied in Opinion 107 "that a name in current use is not to be supplanted by an earlier but rarely adopted or an unadopted name unless the argument is unambiguous, and unless the premises are not subject to differences of opinion."

The species of *Syrphus* now described is one of those possessing a certain (presumably primitive) character in the presence of hairs on the anterior depressed portion of the mesopleura immediately behind the prothoracic spiracle—a character requiring careful examination because hairs curving over from adjacent areas may appear to arise from the depression. The other British species possessing this character are: *balteatus* Deg., *auricollis* Mg. (and its vars.), *cinctellus* Zett., *punctulatus* Verr., *vittiger* Zett., *annulatus* Zett., *lineola* Zett., and *nigritarsis* Zett. The first three of these species possess a second primitive character in the presence on actual hind margin of wing of a series of minute strips of dark chitin placed alternately on upper- and underside of wing surface, but another species (*cinctus* Fln.) which possesses this second character is without the first, a fact which depreciates the value of either as a group character. Indeed, one finds throughout the whole genus combinations of characters so varied and numerous that it is doubtful whether any reasonably sound subdivisions are possible.

The *S. nigritarsis* Zett. mentioned above was recorded by Verrall as British on specimens which he subsequently correctly considered to be varieties of *latifasciatus*. However, females of the true *nigritarsis* (agreeing with the type male in Zetterstedt's Collection) have been taken by Mr. C. J. Wainwright and myself at Grantown-on-Spey in Scotland, and I possess a Scandinavian pair given to me by my friend Mr. O. Ringdahl. The species is peculiar in having the scutellar pubescence yellow in the female but dark in the male.

*Syrphus malinellus* sp. n. ♂ ♀.

In size and general appearance very much like *vittiger* Zett., but thorax more distinctly shining. Male still more like *annulatus* Zett., but front tibiae and tarsi not entirely yellow.

♂. Compared with *vittiger*, face more obscurely yellowish with the median dark band wider and much less sharply defined, and lower part of face on each side (including mouth edge and jowls) broadly darkened with only a slight coating of whitish dust. Antennae yellowish on lower part of first two joints, and on lower part (at least about base) of third joint.

Thorax more brightly shining *black*, for though it has a universal coating of microscopic dust (more conspicuous on prescutellar area), this is not so dense nor so greyish-brown in colour as in *vittiger*. Pleurae also less densely dusted.

Abdomen with very similar yellow markings, each one narrowly drawn out (upwards) towards basal side corner of each tergite, and extending over sides. Ventral dark markings apparently larger, and some dark hairs on at least fourth sternite.

Legs with femora more extensively darkened, less than apical half of four anterior, and only tip of hind, femora yellow. Four anterior tibiae with an indistinctly margined dark ring towards tip; hind tibiae more extensively darkened, and all tarsi more distinctly darkened. More numerous black bristly hairs on femora (especially four anterior), and some black hairs on middle and hind coxae. Wings slightly brownish with costal "stigma" well marked.

♀. Differing from *vittiger* in face and jaws as in male. Frons more like that of *punctulatus*; dust patches narrower opposite lunule than in *vittiger* and practically meeting in an arc above.

Thorax viewed from above with a stripe on each side less dusted (the dust being greyer), and consequently more shining black than the broad, more brownish dusted, middle portion (certainly more shining than in *vittiger*), the notopleural area as usual densely dusted greyish. Pleurae less densely dusted than in *vittiger*.

Abdomen obviously differing from *punctulatus* in having *entire* transverse yellow bands on tergites 3 and 4, while all yellow markings are rather wider: those on second tergite for instance are at widest part wider than distance from hind margin of tergite; in fact the abdomen is much more like that of *vittiger*, but bands extending more widely over sides. Hind margin of fourth tergite, and a transversely elongate patch at base on each side of fifth tergite, yellow. Hind margin of fifth tergite more narrowly yellow than in *vittiger* and its side margins not yellow.

Four anterior femora more extensively yellow than in *punctulatus* (about apical half yellow), but black hairs predominating on this yellow part more than in *vittiger*. Hind femora not yellow at base. Tibiae and tarsi similar to those of *punctulatus*; hind tibiae and all tarsi not so extensively yellow as in *vittiger* or *annulatus*.

Length, 8-9 mm.

It is normally a larger species than *annulatus*, and the male in addition to the different leg coloration has each yellow marking on second abdominal tergite widest at about one-third from side margin; in *annulatus* they are of more even width throughout. The male of *lineola* has darker antennae, still darker legs, and decidedly less shining thorax.

At one time I thought that the above species might be the true *S. vittiger* Zett., perhaps previously misidentified by us, but I have been able to examine Zetterstedt's type male (taken at "Lycksele"), which is a somewhat immature and rubbed specimen and consequently more bluish in colour, but not otherwise distinguishable from our British *vittiger*.

The male type of *S. malinellus* was taken on Crab-apple blossom near Crowborough (Sussex) on 18th May, 1932, and Mr. C. J. Wainwright, who was collecting with me at the same time, took two more males, while three years later (13th April, 1935) he caught an additional male at Holmsley (Hants). A specimen of what I believe to be the female was taken by Mr. Wainwright near Grantown-on-Spey (Scotland) on 20th June, 1942. I have also seen another female taken at the same place by Mr. R. L. Coe some time between the end of May and beginning of June, 1934, and two females from Switzerland submitted to me by Dr. F. Schneider of Wädenswil.