

A new *Sericomyia* from Turkey (Diptera: Syrphidae)

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Sericomyia (*Conosyrphus*) *guichardi* sp.n. ♂ ♀

An easily overlooked species because of its superficial resemblance to the common *Sericomyia silentis* Harris (= *borealis* Fallén). Most readily distinguished from the latter by the extraordinarily deep face.

Male. — Length (exclusive of antennae) 12.5—14.5 mm.; wing-length 10—12.5 mm. Eyes bare, approximating for not more than length of vertical triangle and usually less. Vertex almost equilaterally triangular, dull olive green, with long forwardly curved, rather sparse pale golden yellow hairs. Frons wide, shining, chestnut brown centrally, yellow at sides, with sparse, moderately long, forwardly curved pale golden yellow hairs except on the translucent well-formed brown or yellowish-brown lunula. Face remarkably deep, shining yellow, with a median pair of dark brown longitudinal stripes for almost entire depth, separated above by more than their individual width and gradually converging until they meet towards mouth edge; there is a strong tendency, however, for these stripes to become lighter in coloration below middle of face and to practically merge into the yellow ground colour; measured in profile (fig. 1) the portion of the face below the eye is almost as deep as the eye itself; it is flattish, slightly receding below the antennae, then gently undulating, the ill-defined central prominence situated just below the middle; viewed from in front it is broad above, then gradually narrowing down to the blunt mouth-edge; close against the eyes there is a row of fairly long fine lash-like pale golden yellow hairs which continue down to the level of the blackish jowls; the dull ash-grey occiput has a fringe of pale golden yellow hairs, short above and becoming longer as they continue on to the underside of the jowls. Antennae very small, the second segment about twice as long as the first, both blackish brown; third segment about one and a quarter to one and a half times as long as second, scarcely longer than wide, rounded at tip, grey reddish-brown, arista yellow, bearing longish pale golden yellow hairs for most of its length.

Thorax, scutellum and pleurae blackish, moderately to brightly shining, with longish pale yellow pubescence. Abdomen with ground colour of tergites dullish black; second tergite with a narrowly interrupted broad yellow cross-band, anteriorly running parallel on disc with front margin of tergite, then sloping back and continuing over side-margins; posteriorly it slopes back continuously; third tergite with a continuous yellow cross-band, similar in

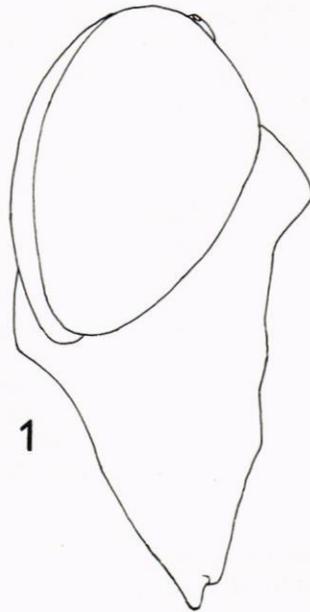


Fig. 1. *Sericomyia* (*Conosyrphus*) *guichardi* sp.n. Head in profile.

shape to that on preceding tergite but more extensively parallel to the front margin; hind margin yellow or yellowish-orange, narrowly so towards sides, more broadly so on disc; fourth tergite yellow or yellowish orange apart from a basal band of the dullish black ground colour, which reaches the yellow side-margins and is partially overlapped by the preceding tergite, and a narrow more or less undulating similar band across middle, which does not quite reach the side-margins; pregenital segments entirely yellowish or yellowish-orange. Sternites black-and-yellow-banded. Entire abdomen clothed with pale yellow hairs, which are short on disc, otherwise longish.

Coxae and trochanters black; femora black for about basal two-thirds, then yellow or yellowish orange, the latter colour often encroaching as dorsal and sometimes ventral streaks on the black portion; all tibiae, tarsi and pulvilli yellowish orange, except that last tarsal segment is sometimes more or less darkened; all legs with pale golden yellow hairs, which are short on tibiae and tarsi, otherwise longish.

Wings brown-tinged anteriorly, leaving all of R₅, tip and posterior portion opaque greyish. Squamae whitish, with long very pale yellow fringes. Halteres whitish grey, orange tinged to some extent.

Female. — (2 specimens only). Length (exclusive of antennae) 12 mm.; wing-length 10.5 mm. Eyes widely separated, frons blackish for upper half or more. Otherwise resembles male, except that body pubescence is considerably shorter and femora are inclined to be more extensively yellow or yellowish orange.

Holotype male; Turkey, Trabzon, Zigana Dagi, 4,200 feet, 13.vii. 1960, K. M. Guichard.

Paratypes; 1 male with same data as holotype. 6 males, Cankiri, Ilgaz Dagi, 1,700 metres, 22.vii. 1962, K. M. Guichard. 1 male, Zigana Dagi, 5,000 feet,

9.viii.1959, K. M. Guichard. 1 female, Zigana Dagi, 5—6,000 feet, 10—14.viii.1959, K. M. Guichard. 1 female, Kars, Yalniczcan, 5,500 feet, K. M. Guichard.

All the above material is in the collections of the British Museum (Natural History) in London.

Frey (1915) described *Sericomyia tolli* from three females taken in North Siberia, and erected the genus *Conosyrphus* for the species because of its strikingly deep face and the flat and broad abdomen. Hull (1949) treats *Conosyrphus* as a subgenus only of *Sericomyia*, with which conclusion I agree. While the abdomen is certainly flattish and broad in a female of the type series that I have examined through the courtesy of Dr. Hackman, it is unlikely that the male (when discovered) will be found to share this feature. In my *guichardi* the abdomen in both sexes is quite strongly convex; the same applies to a badly damaged and squashed female from Sikkim of an entirely yellow-legged *Sericomyia* (*Conosyrphus*) that is in this Museum and is undescribed because of its poor condition.

S. (C.) tolli may be easily distinguished from my *guichardi* by, amongst other characters, the distinctly lesser depth of its face, which is wholly yellow; wings entirely greyish without any anterior darkening; tergites 2—4 with well separated very narrow yellow cross-bands. The female of the type series examined by me is the only specimen of *tollii* in the collection at Helsinki (teste Hackman). The data on the several labels agrees with that given by Frey (1915: 18) for the original three specimens described by him, which is as follows: — 'Nord-Sibirien, Heimat, West-Taymyr, Nordküste, Walter-Bay, Nachtlager XII.' It bears the registration label, 'Mus. Zool. Helsinki, No. 15611'.

References

- FREY, R. 1915, Diptera Brachycera aus den Arktischen Küstengegenden Sibiriens. Mém. de l'acad. des Sciences de Russ., ser. 8,29(10): 17—18.
HULL, F. M. 1949. The Morphology and Inter-relationship of the Genera of Syrphid Flies, Recent and Fossil. Trans. zool. soc. Lond., 26(4): 352.