

Machimus cowini in The Netherlands (Diptera: Asilidae)

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SPEIGHT, M. C. D., 1988. *MACHIMUS COWINI* IN THE NETHERLANDS (DIPTERA: ASILIDAE). – *ENT. BER., AMST.* 48(1): 16-17.

Abstract: *Machimus cowini* is recorded from the Friesian island of Ameland. Morphological features are given for separating *M. cowini* from *M. cingulatus*.

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In his account of the Asilidae of The Netherlands Van der Goot (1985) mentions the species *Machimus cowini* (Hobby) as occurring in Great Britain and Ireland. He also repeats (in translation) the couplet in which Oldroyd (1969) distinguishes *M. cowini* from the closely related *M. cingulatus* (Fabricius). But, he remarks on *M. cowini* as follows: „Ik neem dus de hierboven aangehaalde „soort” slechts terloops op en alle Nederlandse exemplaren in dit verband reken ik tot *M. cingulatus* Fabr.”.

As part of an investigation of the status and distribution of *Machimus cowini* I have (Speight, 1987) examined specimens named as *Machimus cingulatus* in the collections at Leiden and Amsterdam. One male from The Netherlands proved to belong to *Machimus cowini*, with data as follows: 22 June 1970, 1 km N of Nes, Ameland, coll. N. de Haas, in collection, Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden. It is not surprising that the species *M. cingulatus* and *M. cowini* have been confused, since Engel's (1925-30) description of *M. cingulatus* clearly applies to *M. cowini* and Hobby (1946) failed both to refer to Engel's account and to state the basis for his own concept of *M. cingulatus*. I have argued that the Fabricius (1781) description of *M. cingulatus* cannot apply to *M. cowini*, so that Engel's interpretation of *M. cingulatus* has to be regarded as incorrect. At least

in the male sex, *M. cowini* can be readily distinguished from other European *Machimus* species (Speight, 1987). Both sexes of *M. cowini* can be distinguished from both sexes of *M. cingulatus* as follows:

- A. All femora with postero-lateral yellow stripe from base to tip
. *cingulatus* (Fabricius).
- B. Fore and mid femora with yellow ring around distal end, otherwise black (except for, occasionally, small yellowish patch baso-dorsally on mid-femora); hind femora with posterolateral surface black for most of length, yellow only round distal end and for a short distance in basal half
. *cowini* (Hobby).

While it is clear that *M. cowini* does occur in continental Europe (France, The Netherlands, W. Germany, Hungary), it would also seem to be much more localised than *M. cingulatus*.

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