

Merodon telmateia, a new hoverfly from Turkey (Diptera: Syrphidae)

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Abstract: *Merodon telmateia* n. sp. is described and figured after material from the eastern Turkish provinces of Kars and Ağrı. The species is related to *M. spinitarsis* Paramonov, *M. nanus* Sack and other species located by Sack (1913, 1935) in the *aeneus* group.

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Introduction

During a recent fieldtrip to eastern Turkey, the ecology and behaviour of five *Merodon* species were studied at four localities. One of these species proved to be new to science and is described and discussed here.

Merodon telmateia nov. spec.

Type material

The type material is preserved in the collections of the Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie (Zoölogisch Museum) at Amsterdam (ZMA), of Drs. J. A. W. Lucas at Rotterdam (JAWL) and of the author (WH).

Holotype ♂: Turkey, Kars province, 5 km E of Sarıkamış, Kars deresi, 2000 m, 30.vi-5.vii.1986, W. Hurkmans leg. (ZMA). Paratypes: data as holotype, 8 ♂, 8 ♀ (ZMA), 3 ♂, 3 ♀ (JAWL), 4 ♂, 21 ♀ (WH); Turkey, Kars province, 8 km W of Sarıkamış, 2000 m, 6.vii.1986, J. A. W. Lucas leg., 3 ♀ (JAWL); Turkey, Ağrı prov., N of Patnos, 1700 m, 19.vi.1984, J. A. W. Lucas leg., 1 ♂ (JAWL); Turkey, Kars prov., Handere, 20 km W of Sarıkamış, 2100-2200 m, 1.viii.1983, J. A. W. Lucas leg., 1 ♂ (JAWL), 1 ♂, 2 ♀ (WH); Turkey, Kars prov., Soganlı railroad station W of Sarıkamış, 2100 m, 5.vii.1985, W. Schacht leg., 1 ♂ (JAWL); Turkey, Kars prov., 25 km W of Sarıkamış, 2100 m, 6.vii.1985, C. J. Zwakhals leg., 1 ♀ (WH).

Description

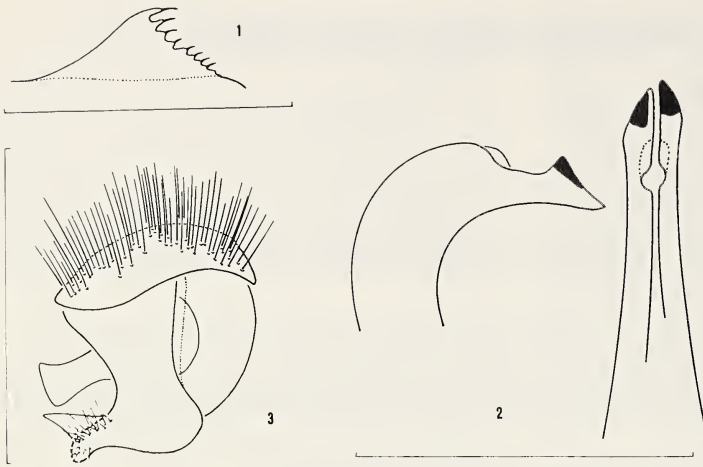
Males

Head: Third antennal segment 1.5 times as long as second segment, upper margin convex basally, slightly concave apically, apex

subacute, colour variable, usually brown. Vertex triangle with an apical angle of about 35°, ocellar triangle with apical angle 40°. Pubescence on face, frons, vertex and occiput brassy yellow, erect; occiput whitish-yellowish pruinose on sides; face and occiput metallic lustrous. A dark hair tuft may be present in the ocellar region.

Thorax: Dorsum metallic lustrous, with rather short, erect, brassy yellow, even pubescence, without pruinose bands; scutellum concolorous. Thoracic sides with mesopleuron, pteropleuron and sternopleuron strongly lustrous, pubescent as on dorsum. Wings clear, squama and antisquama (= upper and lower calypter) pale yellow, halteres yellow.

Legs: Fore and middle legs with femora dark except apices, tibiae yellow with distal dark bands (which may in some specimens be interrupted), tarsi yellow; pubescence yellow, erect on femora, recumbent elsewhere. Hind legs with trochanters smooth on lower face, dark throughout; femora rather straight, slightly swollen, dark, with some metallic lustre, with a triangular process of normal form and deeply serrate distal margin, bearing 6-9 bristles (fig. 1); tibiae yellow-orange with dark median band; tarsi yellow, metatarsus swollen, cy-



Figs. 1-3. *Merodon telmateia* n. sp. 1, holotype, triangular processus of hind femur, showing the deeply serrate distal margin; 2-3, ♂ paratype, Turkey, Kars prov., 5 km E of Sarkamış, Kars deresi, 2000 m: 2, lateral and dorsal view of aedeagus; 3, lateral view of intact ♂ genitalia. (Scale line 1 mm).

lindrical, without spines or spurs; pubescence as on fore and middle legs but longer.

Abdomen: First tergite inconspicuous, bald, dark. Second tergite transverse, dark, without pruinose band, pubescence rather short, suberect, brassy yellow. Third tergite similar to second, sometimes with a V-shaped hair band (pointing forward) which may be conspicuous. Fourth tergite tapering posteriorly, otherwise similar to third tergite. The pubescence on third and fourth tergites is usually short, suberect, yellowish and moderately dense. The sternites are dark, with scattered erect whitish-yellowish pubescence; the fourth sternite is not arched, its hind margin is smooth.

Genitalia: Surstyle without sulcus, anterior lobe absent; posterior lobe rather low, rounded, somewhat elongate, with yellow erect pubescence. The cercus is large and protrudes far beyond the hypandrium, and is long and angular. The aedeagus is smooth, its apical shaft part is short, the fringed plates on the thecal apex moderately wide and reclining (figs. 2 and 3).

Body length 5.5-8 mm.

Females

Similar to the males but differing in the following characters:

Head: Eyes separate, frons metallic lustrous

throughout; apical angle of the ocellar triangle about 50°.

Thorax: Dorsum with vestigial pruinose bands in some specimens.

Legs: Hind legs with femora less lustrous and triangular processus less serrate on distal margin.

Abdomen: Third and fourth tergites may show rather conspicuous pubescence bands which are best seen from behind.

Body length 5-8.5 mm.

Derivation of name

The name *telmateia* is derived from the Greek word *telmatos*, meaning a marsh, to indicate that *M. telmateia* is a marsh dwelling species.

Biology

Some aspects of the biology of *M. telmateia* and other *Merodon* from Turkey will be published in a separate paper (Hurkmans, in prep.).

Geographic distribution and flight season

M. telmateia is at present known from eastern Turkey only. The first recorded capture date is 19.vi, the last is 1.viii.

Discussion

In general appearance *M. telmateia* is fairly

similar to a number of *Merodon* species. Some of these have been placed by Sack (1913, 1935) in the *aeneus* group, while others were located in the *rufus* group (Sack, 1935).

M. telmateia strongly resembles two species not discussed by Sack (1935), viz. *M. spinitarsis* Paramonov and *M. syriacus* Paramonov.

M. telmateia resembles the species in the *aeneus* group by its small size, rather robust habitus and the metallic lustre on the thoracic dorsum. *M. telmateia* can best be compared with *M. aeneus* Meigen from which it is different in not having a spine on the hind trochanter. The genitalia of both species are fairly similar, but those of *M. telmateia* are more delicate; also the posterior surstyle lobe of *M. telmateia* is rounded and less elongate than in *M. aeneus*. *M. telmateia* resembles some species in the *rufus* group, notably *M. nanus* Sack, but it can be distinguished by having no dense facial pruinosity, uniformly coloured antennae and by the bristle on the apex of the triangular process which in *M. telmateia* is erect, while it is curved backward in *M. nanus*.

M. telmateia is of the same size and habitus as *M. spinitarsis* Paramonov but can be distinguished by having no spine on the hind metatarsus, while the triangular process on the hind femur is rather high; this is very low in *M. spinitarsis*. The genitalia are fairly similar, those of *M. telmateia* being smaller and more delicate; in *M. telmateia* the posterior surstyle lobe is rounded and less elongate than in *M. spinitarsis*.

M. telmateia resembles *M. syriacus* Paramonov, but the latter has no clear triangular process on its hind femora; the tarsi of all legs in *M. telmateia* are yellow, but dark in *M. syriacus*.

M. telmateia can be distinguished from *M. minutus* Strobl by its strong metallic lustre on the thoracic dorsum (black in *M. minutus*) and by the yellow halteres which in *M. minutus* are black.

M. telmateia can be distinguished from *M. (Exmerodon) fulcratus* Becker by its having a distinct approximation line between the eyes in the males; in *M. (E) fulcratus* the eyes meet only at one point in the males, the females being unknown in this species.

Acknowledgements

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