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B. J. LEMPKE, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam — Nederland

INHOUD: A. BARENDREGT, The identification of the females in the genus *Parhelophilus* Girschner, 1897 (Diptera, Syrphidae) (p. 113). — B. T. BOSMAN, Hinderlijke of schadelijke mijten en insekten in en om gebouwen in 1979 (p. 115). — B. VAN AARTSEN en F. KER-VINK, Interessante en nieuwe boktorren voor de Nederlandse fauna (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) (p. 117). — R. DE JONG, Distribution and variation of *Pyrgus badachschanus* Alberti (Lepidoptera, Hesperidae) (p. 119). — C. A. W. JEEKEL, Records of Diplopoda of the order Polydesmida from the Fiji Islands (p. 122). — Literatuur (p. 118, 128: B. J. LEMPKE; p. 121: W. N. ELLIS; p. 127: J. P. DUFFELS). — Korte mededelingen (p. 116: Correctie; p. 118: L. J. VAN DEVENTER; p. 128: Nieuwe aanwinsten voor de bibliotheek).

## The identification of the females in the genus *Parhelophilus* Girschner, 1897 (Diptera, Syrphidae)

by

A. BARENDREGT

ABSTRACT. — Some notes on the identification of the females of *Parhelophilus consimilis* (Malm, 1863), *P. frutetorum* (Fabricius, 1775) and *P. versicolor* (Fabricius, 1794) (Diptera, Syrphidae) are given. The occurrence of these species in the Netherlands is discussed.

The separation of three females in the genus *Parhelophilus* has given many difficulties. The colouration of the tergites, which is used as a distinguishing character in the keys of Sack (1932: 286-288) and Coe (1953: 74-75) is variable so that determination becomes unreliable. A survey of the more discriminating characteristics in the genus *Parhelophilus* leads to the following results.

The female of *Parhelophilus consimilis* (Malm, 1863) is distinguished by the black dot near the distal end of the front tibiae (fig. 4), the prominent face (fig. 1) and the dull distinctly black thoracic stripes. The females of *Parhelophilus frutetorum* (Fabricius, 1775) and *P. versicolor* (Fabricius, 1794) have mostly totally yellow front tibiae (at most a little black patch antero-ventrally at tip), brownish-black thoracic stripes and a less prominent face (fig. 2 & 3).

The females of *versicolor* and *frutetorum* are separable on account of the following five characteristics.

— 1. *Parhelophilus frutetorum* has a row of black hairs between the many yellow hairs directly behind the eye-margin (fig. 3), which is absent in *P. versicolor*; this characteristic was already mentioned by Verrall (1901: 534).

— 2. In profile the face of *P. frutetorum* (fig. 3) is rather flat. The face of *P. versicolor* is more swollen, so that the profile is rounded (fig. 2): the most prominent point lies just above the upper mouth-edge.

— 3. The hairs on the hind-halves of tergites III and IV are short, appressed and mostly black in *Parhelophilus versicolor*. These hairs are longer, more erect and mostly lighter coloured in *P. frutetorum* (also mentioned by Stackelberg, 1970, p. 79-80).

SEP 18

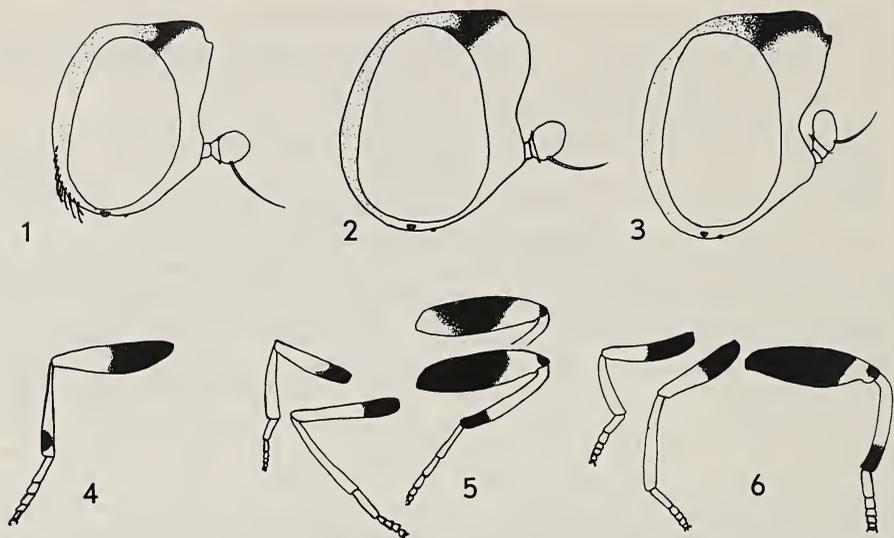


Fig. 1. face of ♀ *Parhelophilus consimilis* (Malm); fig. 2. face of ♀ *Parhelophilus versicolor* (Fabricius); fig. 3. face of ♀ *Parhelophilus frutetorum* (Fabricius); fig. 4. front-leg of *Parhelophilus consimilis* (Malm); fig. 5. front-, mid-, and hind-leg (twice) of *Parhelophilus versicolor* (Fabricius); fig. 6. front-, mid-, and hind-leg of *Parhelophilus frutetorum* (Fabricius)

— 4. The colour of the legs is different (fig. 5 & 6). The basal halves of the front- and mid-femora are black in *P. frutetorum*; in *P. versicolor* only the basal thirds. The yellow colouration of the hind femora covers one fifth of the femur's length in *P. frutetorum* and at least one fourth in *P. versicolor* (even in some cases the femoral base is yellow).

— 5. The short appressed golden hairs at the base of the costa. If these hairs extend distally as far as a point opposite the tip of the alula, the specimen belongs to *P. versicolor*. Discrimination of both species is unreliable if these hairs do not reach as far as the tip of the alula.

In the Netherlands *P. versicolor* is fairly common in wet places from the beginning of May till the middle of August (optimum in May and June). *P. frutetorum* is rare in the eastern parts and not uncommon in the extreme south-eastern parts from the middle of May till the beginning of July (some data from August). *P. consimilis* is rare (mostly in peat-bogs) from the middle of May till the middle of June.

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