

The distribution of horse flies (Diptera: Tabanidae) in North Norway

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Based on 2805 dry pinned specimens collected over the last 120 years, it was found that the Tabanidae in North Norway consisted of eighteen species within the genera *Chrysops* (3), *Hybomitra* (12), *Atylotus* (1), *Heptatoma* (1) and *Haematopota* (1). Of these, six species were regarded as being widespread and very common: *Chrysops nigripes*, *C. relictus*, *Hybomitra aterrима*, *H. kaurii*, *H. montana* and *Haematopota pluvialis*, while other species locally occurred in large numbers (e. g. *H. arpadi* in inner Finnmark). The records were plotted on maps, and the species' distribution was compared with reports from Europe, northern Russia and North America. Seven species were regarded as circumpolar: *Chrysops nigripes*, *Hybomitra polaris*, *H. sexfasciata*, *H. arpadi*, *H. nitidifrons*, *H. lurida* and *Atylotus sublunaticornis*. The North American *Hybomitra sexfasciata* and the European *H. kaurii* are suggested to be one variable species. In some species (*C. nigripes*, *H. kaurii*, *H. nigricornis*, *H. montana*), and in comparison with southern material, dark colours seemed common. In many species, morphological variation (either genetic or non-genetic) was found to be high. The main period of seasonal appearance was between 20 June and 15 August, with an overall peak in July. The paper reports the capture of males in CO₂-baited traps.

Key-words: *Chrysops*, *Hybomitra*, *Atylotus*, *Heptatoma*, *Haematopota*, geographical distribution.

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