

# Notes on the Norwegian species of *Beris* Latreille, 1802 (Diptera, Stratiomyidae)

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The soldier fly genus *Beris* Latreille, 1802 is reviewed, and the species *Beris morrisii* Dale 1841 is reported new to the Norwegian fauna. The records were made in inland localities, in rich montane habitats in Valdres and Seljord districts in central south Norway. Norwegian specimens assigned to *B. strobli* Dusek & Rozkosny, 1968 have been checked, and proved to belong to the new species *B. hauseri* Stuke, 2004.

Keywords: Diptera, Stratiomyidae, *Beris morrisii*, *B. hauseri*, *B. strobli*, Norway

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## INTRODUCTION

The genus *Beris* Latreille, 1802 includes small to medium sized, somewhat elongate flies, with a dark head, a black or metallic green thorax, scutellum usually with six characteristic, hairy spines (the number may vary), and a black or orange abdomen. Some of the species have darkened wings. The larvae are terrestrial, living in decaying plant debris, and several species are known for their swarming habits. In his survey of the Stratiomyioidae of Fennoscandia and Denmark, and later in his monograph on the Stratiomyidae of Europe, Rozkosný (1973, 1982) recorded three Norwegian species of the genus *Beris*. He noted, however, that the available Norwegian material was scarce. Greve (1980) added further records, Greve and Straumfors (1988) added a new species, and further records were given in Falck & Greve (1990). The Norwegian fauna is known to consist of four species: *Beris chalybata* (Forster, 1771), *B. clavipes* (Linnaeus, 1767), *B. fuscipes* Meigen, 1820 and *B. strobli* Dusek & Rozkosný, 1968.

## THE SPECIES

### *Beris morrisii* Dale, 1841

The species *Beris morrisii* Dale, 1841 (Figure 1) is new to Norway. It has previously been recorded from the south of Sweden, the greater part of Finland and from Denmark as well as most of Europe, including Great Britain north to the Scottish highlands. It is separated from the other species with a black abdomen by an obviously narrow frons and face, antennae that are inserted well below the middle of the head profile, yellow thoracic pile, uniformly yellow legs except for dark tarsi (basitarsi often yellow in the females), almost hyaline or slightly yellowish wings with a sharply contrasting dark brown pterostigma and yellow halteres.

A male of *Beris morrisii* Dale, 1841, was caught in the North-Western part of Oppland county in June 2004. In the summer of 2005 a total of 18 specimens were collected at the same locality. Two additional males were caught in Seljord in Telemark in the summer of 2005.