

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

Morten Falck

Falck, M. 2007. Notes on the Norwegian species of *Beris* Latreille, 1802 (Diptera, Stratiomyidae) Norw. J. Entomol. 54, 55-58.

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

Morten Falck, Ulsrudveien 13, 0690 Oslo, Norway. E-mail: morfalck@online.no

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.



Figure 1. *Beris morrisii* Dale, 1841. Photo: K. Sund.

Records

ON, (EIS 52), Oppland, Vang: Lauritshaugen, MGRS 32 V MN 826 816. 23-27. June 2004 one m. June 2005: 1 ♀. 3-10 July 2005 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀. 10-17 July 2005 3 mm, 6 ♀♀. 17.-24. July 2005 3 ♂♂, all in malaise trap. 21. August 2005 1 ♂, sweep-netted. Leg. K. Berggren, in coll. NHM. **TEI**, (EIS 26), Seljord: Svartdal, Lien, MGRS 32VMM 727 091 24. June 2005, 1 ♂, leg. K. Berggren, and Svartdal, Haugastaul, 558 m a.s.l., MGRS 32VMM 744 062 26. June 2005, 1 ♂, leg. M. Falck, in coll. M. Falck.

Beris hauseri Stuke, 2004

Beris strobli was reported new from Norway by Greve & Straumfors (1988). However, Stuke (2004) has shown that *B. strobli* of Rozkosný is a complex of three species. There are two specimens of *B. strobli* in the collections of the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo (NHM), and a further eight specimens in the author's private collection. These have been checked and all proved to be *Beris hauseri* Stuke, 2004. The known material in the collection of Zoological

Museum, University of Bergen (ZMB) has also been checked, and proved to consist of *B. hauseri*. The male specimen in the collection of Rana museum is kept in a microvial. It is dry and strongly fragmented, consisting of a loose head without antennae, a thorax without legs but with the wings more or less intact, and an abdomen which is in two parts. However the tip of the abdomen and the genitalia are still sufficiently intact to allow a reliable determination, and the specimen clearly belongs to *B. hauseri*. Thus *Beris hauseri* Stuke, 2004 is new to the Norwegian fauna and should also be added to the Norwegian list.

Records

NORWAY, AK, (EIS 28), Akershus, Bærum: Kjaglidalen 26 may – 11 June 1990, 1 ♀, in malaise-trap, leg. M. Falck. In coll. M. Falck. **BV**, (EIS 43), Buskerud, Ål: Storeteigen, Venadokka, 18 July-18 August 2000 1 ♀, leg. Skartveit, Fremmersvik & Ellingsen. **NTI** (EIS 93) Nord-Trøndelag, Stjørdal: Stjørdal June-July 1988, 1 ♀, Leg. A. Foldvik, in coll. ZMB **TRI** (EIS 147)

Troms, Målselv: Dividalen, Frihetsli, 18 July 1987, 2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, leg. G. Søli. (EIS 154) Kongsvolltunet, 24 June 2004, 1 ♂, leg. L. Greve, in coll. ZMB, except for 1 ♂ and 1 ♀ from Dividalen, Frihetsli, in coll. Tromsø museum. NSI, (EIS 127) Saltdal: Potthus UTM 33 W VQ 1329, 24 June 1982, 1 ♂, leg. Lundmo, in coll. Rana Museum., FV, (EIS 165), Finnmark, Alta: Vinamoen, 9. July 1995 1 ♂ 1 ♀, leg. Kai Berggren, in coll. NHM. 3 ♀♀, leg. Berggren & Myhr, (EIS 173), Detsika, Buolamalia, 3 July-8 august 1995, 1 ♀, in malaise trap, leg Lars Ove Hansen & Helge Rinden, FI, (EIS 159), Karasjok: Buddasnjårga, 5 July 1992, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, leg. Berggren & Myhr. In coll. M. Falck. In addition, there is some material from BØ (EIS 36), Buskerud, Ringerike: v/Hovland gård, in coll. ZMB.

DISCUSSION

B. morrisii is common in Denmark and also known from the south-eastern part of Sweden, so it could have been expected to eventually turn up in areas close to the southern part of the Swedish border. So far, however, that is not the case. In Norway it seems to be restricted to montane inland areas with a calcareous ground, and rich vegetation, at altitudes of about 500-600 m. The locality at Vang is an old, overgrown garden and meadow, where bushes of *Ribes* are overshadowed by *Salix*, *Betula* and *Populus tremula*. It is extremely shadowy, and very humid, with plant debris rotting on the ground, and situated in a south-facing slope, which gives an above average mean temperature. Most of the specimens were captured in a malaise trap, along with specimens of *Beris chalybata*.

The locality in Svartdal, Telemark is a south-facing side of a valley where water is abundant and plant growth is lush and rich in species, due to a calcareous ground. The area is still greatly cultivated, which keeps it partly open, and affords forest edges and roadsides with rich foliage, providing both a heavy shadow and sunny leaves. The flies were caught by sweep-netting the foliage along the roadsides, mainly *Salix*, *Betula*, *Populus tremula* and *Sorbus aucuparia*

in the afternoon. Other *Beris* specimens were also caught, belonging to the species *B. chalybata*.

The Diptera fauna of Norway is by far sufficiently known to judge the abundance of the *Beris* species. However, the last two decades have seen a marked increase in collected material, thanks to the use of malaise traps. Judging from the published records and the author's private collection, the most common *Beris* species in the southern part of Norway seems to be *B. chalybata* for inland localities, while *B. clavipes* seems to prefer coastal areas at least reaching as far north as Kvæfjord in Troms county. *B. fuscipes* may be found at inland localities in the southern part of the country, and seems to be the dominating species in the North. These species are all widespread and may be abundant where they appear.

Beris hauseri seems to be distributed over most of the country, from the Oslo area in the south to Karasjok in the north. It seems to be more common in the north, but this may very well be an impression formed by insufficient investigation. For the time being the species must be regarded as rare.

The true *B. strobli* has not yet been found in Norway, and should be deleted from the list of Norwegian species. Stuke (pers. comm.) knows of no Scandinavian specimens of the true *strobli*. In Central Europe, it is associated with high altitude areas with *Petasites hybridus*. (Stuke, 2004) As *Petasites montana* is common in the Scandinavian mountain range, *Beris strobli* may eventually be looked for in such areas.

B. morrisii has so far only been found in two localities, and should be regarded as rare and vulnerable.

Acknowledgements. I wish to thank Kai Berggren, who collected most of the *Beris morrisii* specimens, and the curators and staff at the Insect Department, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo, who let me study specimens in their care. My thanks are also due to Lita Greve Jensen at the Zoological Museum, University of Bergen, who

checked the specimens assigned to *Beris strobli* in the museum's collection and let me study much of the material, to Dr. Jens-Hermann Stuke, University of Bremen, for valuable help and information, and to Karsten Sund, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo for taking photo.

REFERENCES:

- Falck, M. & Greve, L. 1990. Records of Stratiomyidae (Diptera) from South-Eastern Norway, with some notes on the species. *Fauna norv. Ser. B.* 37, 101-104.
- Greve, L. 1980. Notes on the distribution of some Norwegian Stratiomyidae (Diptera) species. *Fauna norv. Ser. B* 27, 78-79.
- Greve, L. & Straumfors, P. 1988. Notes on some Stratiomyidae (Diptera) from Nordland. *Fauna norv. Ser B* 35, 43.
- Rozkosný, R. 1973. The Stratiomyioidae (Diptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. *Fauna Ent. Scand.*, Vol. 1, 140 pp.
- Rozkosný, R. 1982. A Biosystematic Study of the European Stratiomyidae (Diptera), Vol. 1, Series Entomologica 21, The Hague.
- Stuke, J.-H. 2004. Eine neue Art der Gattung *Beris* Latreille, 1802 aus Mitteleuropa. *Beitr. Ent.* 54, 333-342.

*Received 13 March 2007,
accepted 17 April 2007*