

***Platycheirus* species (Diptera, Syrphidae) from the Altai Mountains, SE Siberia, with description of five new species**

Anatolii V. Barkalov & Tore R. Nielsen

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The paper reports 38 *Platycheirus* species from the Altai Mountains and describes the following new species, *P. alpigenus* sp. n., *P. altaicus* sp. n., *P. atratus* sp. n., *P. fallax* sp. n. and *P. gunillae* sp. n.

Keywords: *Platycheirus*, new species, Syrphidae, Altai Mountains.

Anatolii V. Barkalov, Institute of Systematic & Ecology of Animals, RAS, 11 Frunze Street, Novosibirsk-91, 630091, Russia. E-mail: bark@eco.nsc.ru

Tore R. Nielsen, Sandvedhagen 8, NO-4318 Sandnes, Norway. E-mail: tore@nielsen.cc

INTRODUCTION

The Altai Mountains are a mountain range in eastern Asia where Russia, China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan come together. The larger part of the Altai Mountains is on Russian territory, in the Republic of Altai. The nature of the Altai Mountains is highly variable, with several peaks exceeding 4000 meters (Mount Belukha reaches 4,506 m a.s.l.). The region represents the most complete sequence of altitudinal vegetation zones in central Siberia, from steppe, forest-steppe, mixed forest, subalpine vegetation to alpine vegetation. The climate is continental. The winters are cold with snowfall, the summers warm and mainly dry in the south, but with considerable rain in north-east. The large diversity of habitats has resulted in originating of a very rich flora and fauna with a large number of endemics. The material studied shows a high number (thirty eight species) of *Platycheirus* in the area.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Zoological Museum, Novosibirsk, had several

expeditions to the Altai Mountains, resulting in essential material from the high mountains of SW Altai, from 1963 and onwards. It has been collected by N. Violovitsh, A. Barkalov, V. Zinchenko, R. Dudko, V. Sorokina and others. The collecting of hoverfly material by A. Barkalov started in 1977 and has proceeded until recently.

Our study is devoted to species of the genus *Platycheirus* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 from only the Russian and Kazakh parts of the area. The genus comprises rather small, slender to robust species characterized by expanded, flattened front legs in the males of most species and/or with stiff bristles, modified hairs or hair tufts below on fore femur.

Most of the material has been collected by sweeping forest and tundra vegetation, and netting specimens hovering near and above mountain tops. In recent years Malaise traps has also been an effective collecting method. The drawings were made with the aid of a drawing mirror attached to a Wild M5 stereomicroscope.