

A migration of *Eristalis similis* (Fallén, 1817) (Diptera, Syrphidae) at Lindesnes, South Norway in 2009

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Introduction

During a visit to the sea shore at Spangereid, Lindesnes (EIS 1) on 7 August 2009 a large number of *Eristalis similis* (Fallén, 1817) was observed, feeding on flowering *Solidago virgaurea* L. The species was seen among numerous *Eristalis pertinax* (Scopoli, 1763), *Eristalis tenax* (Linnaeus, 1758) and scattered *Helophilus affinis* Wahlberg, 1844.

Material

6♂♂6♀♀ were collected on that day, and on 10 August, after some days of heavy rain another 2♂♂1♀ were found. The species was not seen after that period.

Discussion

Eristalis similis is a South European and North African species which is known to be migratory (Stubbs & Falk 2002, Bartsch 2009 and pers. comm.). Previously it has been taken in South Norway only twice, in two single specimens in the neighbouring EIS 5 (Nielsen 1999, 2002). On 7 August, and two days before, there was a moderate to fresh breeze from southeast, which

may have given the specimens a “good lift” from the European continent.

E. similis is a large species which in the field may be confused with *E. pertinax* and *E. tenax*. However, *E. pertinax* differs from the other two in fore and mid tarsi yellow (black in *E. similis* and *E. tenax*) and the abdominal tip more pointed in the male. *E. similis* has the face extensively dusted, while there is a broad black facial stripe in *E. tenax*.

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