

# Blowflies (Diptera, Calliphoridae) of the Faroe Islands, species list and collection sites

JENS-KJELD JENSEN, JÓGVAN FRÓÐI HANSEN & ÁMUNDUR NOLSØ

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The distribution, flight periods and sex ratios of blowflies of the family Calliphoridae (Diptera, Brachycera) in the Faroe Islands based on 3827 specimens collected throughout the archipelago are given. Five species: *Calliphora vicina* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, *Calliphora uralensis* Villeneuve, 1922, *Calliphora vomitoria* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Cynomya mortuorum* (Linnaeus, 1761), *Protophormia terraenovae* (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830) were recorded, *C. vomitoria* for the first time.

Key words: Diptera, Calliphoridae, *Calliphora*, *C. uralensis*, *C. vicina*, *C. vomitoria*, *Cynomya*, *C. mortuorum*, *Protophormia*, *P. terraenovae*, Faroe Islands.

*Jens-Kjeld Jensen, i Geilini 37, FO-270 Nólsoy, Faroe Islands. E-mail: jkjensen@olivant.fo*

*Jógván Fróði Hansen, Faroe Islands National Heritage, Archives, Library and Museums, Mjólkargøta 7, FO-180 Kaldbak, Faroe Islands. E-mail: jogvanh@savn.fo*

*Ámundur Nolsø, Faroe Islands National Heritage, Archives, Library and Museums, Mjólkargøta 7, FO-180 Kaldbak, Faroe Islands. E-mail: amundurn@savn.fo*

## Introduction

The Faroe Islands are located in the North East Atlantic in the approximate centre of a triangle formed by Scotland, Iceland and Norway. The 18 main islands cover around 1400 km<sup>2</sup> and 17 islands are populated by man. Some of the current fauna and flora must have colonised the Faroes after the end of the Weichselian glaciation, 9500 years ago (Enckell, 1985), but the chances of dispersal for certain species must have improved after man's arrival at the islands 1300 years ago (Johansen, 1985). Given the ecology of most Diptera species, human traffic to the islands has undoubtedly been the main vector for the introduction of various fly species to the islands. Past knowledge of the Calliphoridae (Diptera, Brachycera) in the Faroe Islands is based mainly on collections made by J. P. Kryger during the summers of 1925 and 1926 (Lyneborg, 1968). This current paper is based on

3827 specimens collected during an archipelago-wide study carried out nearly 80 years later by the senior author and 22 other collectors. As a consequence of this investigation, local names have been given to the Faroese blowfly genera and species (Jensen & Thomsen, 2009).

## Material and methods

Blowflies were sampled throughout the year between mid-2005 and December 2010 over most of the Faroes (Map 1). Many flies were collected with sweep nets but others were caught opportunistically e.g. inside houses. The vast majority of the flies came from in or close to inhabited buildings. Most specimens from Tvøroyri came from an electric fly killer in a fish factory. Knut Rognes assisted with registration schemes and verified the first 54 identifications,