

The tribe Meteorini (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Euphorinae) in Norway, with additional information on host associations

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Stigenberg, J. & Hansen, L.O. 2013. The tribe Meteorini (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Euphorinae) in Norway, with additional information on host associations. *Norwegian Journal of Entomology* 60, 108–118.

The tribe Meteorini comprises the two genera *Meteorus* Haliday, 1835 and *Zelev* Curtis, 1832, and materials of these genera has been examined in the collections of the Natural History Museum in Oslo. Nine species not previously reported from Norway were found, i.e. *Meteorus affinis* (Wesmael, 1835), *M. alborossicus* Lobodenko, 2000, *M. consimilis* (Nees, 1834), *M. limbatus* Maeto, 1988, *M. lionotus* Thomson, 1895, *M. obfuscatus* (Nees, 1811), *M. ruficeps* (Nees, 1834), *M. tabidus* (Wesmael, 1835) and *Zelev annulicrus* (Thomson, 1895). This brings the number of *Meteorus* to 23 and *Zelev* to 5 in Norway. All European species of *Zelev* have now been recorded in Norway. Several new county records are also presented, including records of *M. cespitator* (Thunberg, 1824), which was previously recorded from Norway but without any further data on localities. Biology and distribution for each species are briefly discussed. For several species additional information on host association is given.

Key words: Braconidae, Euphorinae, Meteorini, *Meteorus*, *Zelev*, new records, host associations, Norway.

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Introduction

The Braconidae represents one of the major families of parasitoid Hymenoptera (Achterberg 1984). Despite their abundance and economic importance, they have not been well studied worldwide, including Norway. Previous publications on Norwegian Braconidae have reported less than 200 species from Norway (i.e. Strand 1898, 1906, 1919, Achterberg 1974, Riedel *et al.* 2002). In fact, no comprehensive faunistic survey of Norwegian braconids has been compiled so far. One sole attempt was by Strand (1898), but the list counted only 18 species. In Britain, the number

of species of Braconidae counts around 1200, representing almost 20% of all Hymenoptera known from there (Shaw & Huddleston 1991). Gärdenfors *et al.* (2003) gave an estimate of 1136 species for Sweden. There is no reason to believe that the number would be substantially lower in Norway. However Ottesen (1993) estimated the number in Norway to be 700, which is probably far too low.

The tribe Meteorini includes only two genera, *Meteorus* Haliday, 1835 and *Zelev* Curtis, 1832, which are koinobiont endoparasitoids of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera larvae. More than 300 species are known worldwide, about one fifth