

# Old and new Norwegian records of Camillidae (Diptera), a family missing from the checklist

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Eleven specimens of *Camilla flavicauda* Duda 1922 were accidentally reared indoors in Oslo, and a twelfth one was later found free living. In addition, four old specimens of *Camilla glabra* (Fallén, 1823) were found in the collection of the Natural History Museum in Oslo. These constitute the first records of the small family Camillidae for Norway. The identification literature and the likely substrate of the larvae of *C. flavicauda* are discussed.

Key words: Diptera, Ephydroidea, Camillidae, *Camilla flavicauda*, *Camilla glabra*, Norway.

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## Introduction

Camillidae constitute a small family of flies resembling Drosophilidae and Ephydriidae. Around ten species are known from the Western Palaearctic. In the past decades, relatively many species have been described from the Afrotropical region (Papp 1998; Marshall 2012: 355). The species of north-western Europe can be identified with the keys of Papp (1985) and, more easily, with the keys and illustrations of the Camillidae of the Netherlands (Beuk & de Jong 1994) and Switzerland (Merz 2008). As there has been confusion about the identity of most taxa of European *Camilla* Haliday, 1838, all older identifications need to be checked. Little is known about the larval biology of Camillidae, but larvae and adults are associated with excrements of birds and excrements and burrows of small mammals (Basden 1961; Beuk & de Jong 1994; Papp 1998; Merz 2008).

In autumn 2013, I took flower pots indoors for the purpose of overwintering geraniums (*Pelargonium*). These pots had stood outside on

my terrace during spring and summer, and were filled with garden turf (ca. 10 L) with a high proportion of organic matter. In addition, I brought into my home some three litres of sandy garden soil for geranium cuttings. This soil was taken from under a veranda, had been relatively dry throughout the year and contained little organic matter. The containers were placed in an unheated room (10–15°C in winter) in front of a window.

From December to May, a range of Diptera and some other insects emerged from these substrates and collected against the window, the most conspicuous in size and numbers being Tipulidae, Limoniidae and Anthomyiidae. These species most probably emerged from the garden turf. Among the less conspicuous flies were eleven specimens of *Camilla flavicauda* Duda, 1922 (Camillidae) (Figure 1). A further specimen that must have emerged outdoors was collected in July. The Fauna Europaea checklist (Carles-Tolrá 2004) and Artsnavnebasen (artsdatabanken.no) list no Camillidae species at all for Norway.

I checked the Camillidae collection at the Natural History Museum in Oslo (NHMO, aka