

New data on the distribution of *Chionea* Dalman, 1816 (Diptera, Limoniidae), and on habitat choice of *C. araneoides* Dalman, 1816 at high altitudes

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A number of new records of *Chionea araneoides* Dalman, 1816 from the county of Nordland (NSI and NSY) are presented. The total knowledge today indicates a distribution over the whole country. A single individual of *Chionea crassipes* Boheman, 1846 collected in Rana (NSI) contradicts an earlier assumption of a bicentric distribution in Norway. While *C. crassipes* has been found to be more common than *C. araneoides* in Finnmark, the opposite is the case south of Troms. In order to find out at which latitude the dominance between the two species shifts, more records of *Chionea* Dalman, 1816 from Troms are needed. At Vågå in northern Oppland County (ON), *C. araneoides* has been collected repeatedly above the tree line, up to 1465m above sea level, which is a new Norwegian altitude record. Habitat choice at high altitudes is commented on.

Key words: Diptera, Limoniidae, *Chionea araneoides*, *Chionea crassipes*, distribution, alpine habitat, altitude.

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Introduction

Hågvar *et al.* (2010) gave a review of the known Norwegian distribution of *Chionea* Dalman, 1816 (Diptera, Limoniidae). These wingless and spider-like insects are famous for being active on snow (Figure 1), and lay their eggs during winter (Hågvar 1976, 2010). While *Chionea araneoides*

Dalman, 1816 is common in southern Norway and rare in Finnmark, the opposite is the case with *Chionea crassipes* Boheman, 1846. However, records of *Chionea* from Nordland County have been lacking, so the present data shed new light on the distribution of the two species.

While *Chionea araneoides* is usually regarded as a typical forest-living species, recent studies in