

# *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n., a species of the *ambiguus*-group (Diptera, Syrphidae)

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Nielsen, T.R. & Daccordi, M. 2023. *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n., a species of the *ambiguus*-group (Diptera, Syrphidae). *Norwegian Journal of Entomology* 70, 155–157.

A new *Platycheirus* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 species of the *ambiguus*-group has been found in an alpine region of northern Italy. Details and characters separating *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n. from the closely related *Platycheirus ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817) are given.

Key words: Diptera, Syrphidae, *Platycheirus invisus*, *Platycheirus ambiguus*-group, Europe, Italy, new species.

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## Introduction

*Platycheirus* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 is a large hoverfly genus, mainly Holarctic and boreal in distribution, from the arctic tundra southwards. Seventy species are known from the Nearctic region and more than a hundred from the Palaearctic region. A number of species occur also in Neotropical Mexico, Central America, and South America. Several high altitude species are known from Taiwan, Nepal, and the Philippines and 13 species are known from New Zealand, but the genus is absent from Indonesia, New Guinea, and Australia (Vockeroth 1990). Worldwide there are approximately 220 valid species of *Platycheirus* (Young *et al.* 2016).

Species of the hoverfly genus *Platycheirus* Le Peletier & Serville, 1828 is characterised by a parallel-sided or narrowly oval abdomen. The

abdomen is all black in a few species, but is normally grey to orange spotted. The fore legs – and sometimes also the middle pair – are often modified in the male.

24 species have been registered of the hoverfly *Platycheirus ambiguus*-group (Nielsen 2014). A new species, close to the well-known lowland spring species *ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817), has been found in an alpine area of northern Italy.

## Material

The male holotype was collected in northern Italy, labelled “Trentino, Rabbi M. ga Stablet 1600 m, 27-VII-86, Leg. Daccordi M.” = Region Trentino, Rabbi valley, Malga Stablet (shepherd’s cottage), in Parco Nazionale dello Stelvio.

Note about the collecting area: 1600 m a.s.l., a zone with *Pinus cembra*, *Picea abies* and *Larix*

*decidua*, mixed with grassland and pasture in altitude.

The type specimen is kept in the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo.

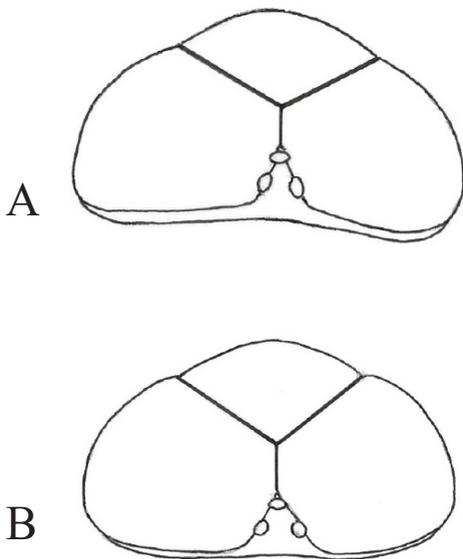
Etymology: *invisus* (latin): overseen, not seen.

**Description and diagnostic characters**

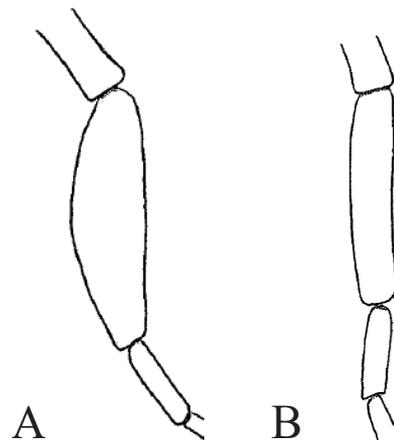
*Platycheirus invisus* sp. n. Male: The male is similar to *ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817), with a wide frons and face (Figures 1–3). Separating characters in Table 1.

**TABLE 1.** Separating characters of male *Platycheirus ambiguus* (Fallen, 1817) and *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n.

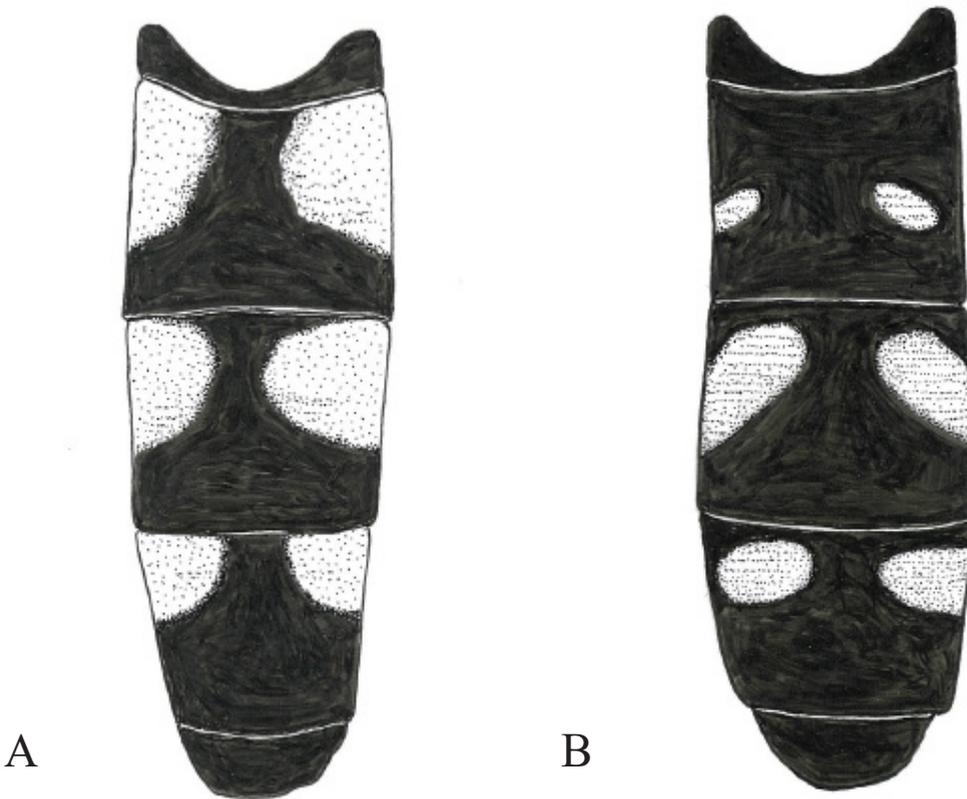
	<i>P. ambiguus</i>	<i>P. invisus</i> sp. n.
3rd antennal joint	Black	Dark yellow
Frons	Metallic bluish black with greyish white dusting	Black
Scutum and scutellum	Steel blue, shiny, with whitish dusting	Black, shiny
Haltere knob	Dark brown	Yellow
Hind leg basitarsus	Thickened (Figure 2A)	Slender (Figure 2B)
Abdominal spots on tergites 3–4	Greyish, near tergite bases (Figure 3A)	Dark yellow, situated a little from tergite base (Figure 3B)
Abdominal segment 5	Shiny metallic bluish grey	Shiny black
Flight period	May–June	July (holotype record)
Collecting biotopes	Lowland deciduous forests	A zone with <i>Pinus cembra</i> , <i>Picea abies</i> and <i>Larix decidua</i> , mixed with grassland and pasture in altitude.



**FIGURE 1.** Male eye angle. **A.** *Platycheirus ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817), **B.** *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n.



**FIGURE 2.** Male hind leg basitarsus **A.** *Platycheirus ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817), **B.** *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n.



**FIGURE 3.** Male abdomen **A.** *Platycheirus ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817), **B.** *Platycheirus invisus* sp. n.

**Acknowledgements.** Our thanks to Sebastiano Andreatta at Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona for information on the biotope of the specimen.

## References

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Received: 28 April 2023

Accepted: 30 November 2023