

Lonchopteridae

Jean-Paul Haenni (1998 Checklist: Jean-Paul Haenni)

Last update: Jul 2024

Diagnosis: Small (2.0-5.0 mm) yellow to brownish black, often yellowish brown with darker pattern, strongly bristled flies; wings distinctive, elongate and apically pointed, with transverse veins only in basal part. Head with broadly separated eyes in both sexes and antennae with rather long arista; two pairs of fronto-orbital, one pair of ocellar, two pairs of vertical setae. Male genitalia large, folded under the abdomen. Identification is mainly based upon male genitalia and vestiture of legs.

Biology: Adults are common in moist places, alongside streams or ponds, in deciduous forests, swamps and damp meadows, but two common species may also occur in drier biotopes. They may be encountered practically all year long. One species (*Lonchoptera bifurcata* (Fallén, 1810)) is strictly parthenogenetic in Central Europe while the others are bisexual. Larvae edaphic, saprophagous or microphagous, in leaf litter, among plant debris and under pebbles along stony streams.

Nomenclature and classification: According to Fauna Europaea (Barták 2013), with an addition.

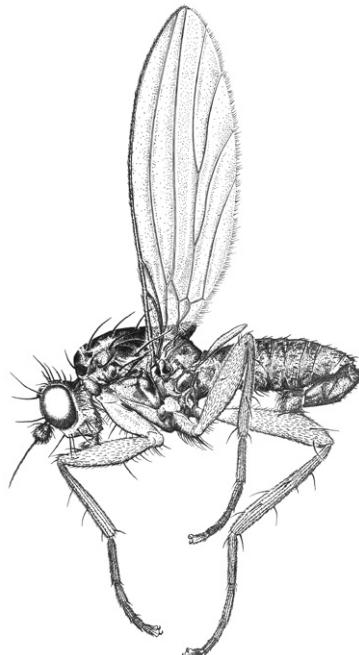
Number of species: CH: 9 (1998 Checklist: 7),
AT: 7, BE: 7, CZ: 9, DE: 7, FR: 8, GB: 7, HU: 5, IT: 7, NL: 7, SK: 9, Europe: 14, World: 68.

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Good; 1-2 additional rare species may possibly occur in Switzerland. Lonchopteridae have been studied more thoroughly only in cantons Vaud – even if not for a faunistical survey – (Baud 1973), and Geneva (Merz 2012).

General references: Andersson (1991) [catalogue, Palaearctic species], Bährmann & Bellstedt (1988) [key, Central European species], Barták (1986) [key, European species], Barták (1998) [general, key to genera], Baud (1973) [biology], Barták (2009) [checklist CZ/SK], Barták (2013) [Fauna Europaea database], Beuk (2022) [key, European species], Drake (2002) [biology, ecology], Vaillant (1989) [general, taxonomy], Whittington & Beuk (2022) [key, European species].

References to the Swiss fauna: Baud (1973), Haenni (1989, 1998), Merz (2004, 2012), Merz et al. (2006), Zwick (2004). Old bibliographical records from 19th century are unreliable due to confusion in identifications before the use of male genital morphology for the recognition of species.

Lonchoptera bifurcata,
male (CMPD3, p.14).



Checklist

- Lonchoptera* Meigen, 1803
- *bifurcata* (Fallén, 1810) !
 - = *furcata* Fallén, 1823
 - *fallax* de Meijere, 1906 !
 - *lutea* Panzer, 1809 !
 - *meijerei* Collin, 1938 L
 - *pictipennis* Bezzi, 1899 !
 - *scutellata* Stein, 1890 !
 - *strobli* de Meijere, 1906 !
 - *tristis* Meigen, 1824 !
 - *vaillanti* Zwick, 2004 L N1

Notes

N1 The validity of the species *Lonchoptera vaillanti* is questioned by Barták (2009).

References

- Andersson H. 1991. Family Lonchopteridae. In: Soós Á. & Papp L. (eds). Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera. Vol. 7: 139-142. Dolichopodidae - Platypizidae. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 291 pp.
- Bährmann R. & Bellstedt R. 1988. Beobachtungen und Untersuchungen zur Vorkommen der Lonchopteriden auf dem Gebiet der DDR, mit einer Bestimmungstabelle der Arten (Dipt., Lonchopteridae). Deutsche entomologische Zeitschrift, N.F. 35: 265-279.
- Barták M. 1986. The Czechoslovak species of Lonchopteridae. In: Olejníček J. & Spitzer K. (eds). Dipterologica bohemoslovaca. Vol. 4: 61-69. Jihoceské muzeum, České Budějovice, přírodní vědy.
- Barták M. 1998. Lonchopteridae. In Papp L. & Darvas B. (eds). Contributions to a Manual of Palaearctic Diptera (with special reference to flies of economic importance). Vol. 3: 13-16. Science Herald, Budapest, 880 pp.

- Barták M. 2009. Lonchopteridae Curtis, 1839. In: Jedlička L., Kúdela M. & Stloukalová V. (eds). Checklist of Diptera of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Electronic version 2. <http://zoology.fns.uniba.sk/diptera2009>.
- Barták M. 2013. Fauna Europa: Lonchopteridae. In: Beuk P. & Pape T. (eds). Fauna Europaea: Diptera, Brachycera. Fauna Europaea version 2.6. <http://www.faunaeur.org>.
- Baud F. 1973. Biologie et cytologie de 5 espèces du genre *Lonchoptera* Meig. (Dipt.) dont l'une est parthénogénétique et les autres bissexuées, avec quelques remarques d'ordre taxonomique. Revue Suisse de Zoologie 80: 473-515.
- Beuk P.L.T. 2022. Key: Lonchopteridae of Europe. https://www.online-keys.net/infusions/keys/keys_view.php?key_no=27.
- Drake C.M. 2002. The distribution and habitat preferences of British Lonchopteridae (Diptera). Entomologist's Monthly Magazine 138: 121-132.
- Haenni J.-P. 1989. Deux Lonchopteridae (Diptera) nouveaux pour la faune de Suisse. Bulletin romand d'Entomologie 7: 73-77.
- Haenni J.-P. 1998. 47. Lonchopteridae. In: Merz B., Bächli G., Haenni J.-P. & Gonseth Y. (eds). Diptera - Checklist. Fauna Helvetica 1: 201. CSCF / SEG, Neuchâtel, 369 pp.
- Merz B. 2004. Neun für die Schweiz neue Fliegenarten (Diptera Brachycera). Mitteilungen der Entomologischen Gesellschaft Basel 53: 98-109.
- Merz B. 2012. 8.36.5. Phoroidea. In: Merz B. (ed). Liste annotée des insectes (Insecta) du canton de Genève. Instrumenta Biodiversitatis 8: 375, Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève, 532 pp.
- Merz B., Bächli G. & Haenni J.-P. 2006. Zweiter Nachtrag zur Checkliste der Diptera der Schweiz. Mitteilungen der Entomologischen Gesellschaft Basel 56(4): 135-165.
- Vaillant F. 1989. Contribution à l'étude des Diptères Lonchopteridae d'Europe et d'Afrique du Nord. Bulletin de la Société vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles 79(3): 209-229.
- Whittington A.E. & Beuk P.L.T. 2022. A description of a new species of Western Palaearctic *Lonchoptera* Meigen (Diptera, Lonchopteridae) from Georgia. ZooNova - Occasional Papers in Zoology 20: 1-18.
- Zwick P. 2004. *Lonchoptera vaillanti* sp. nov., a new fly from Switzerland (Diptera: Lonchopteridae). Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft 77: 133-136.