

Ergebnisse der Deutschen Afghanistan-Expedition 1956 der Landessammlungen für Naturkunde Karlsruhe

Conopidae (Diptera)

by

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(With Plate I)

The specimens discussed in this paper are in the Staatlichen Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart and in the Landessammlungen für Naturkunde Karlsruhe and I am grateful to Prof. Dr. E. LINDNER and Dr. H. G. AMSEL for the opportunity to study them.

1) *Conops flavicaudus* (BIGOT)

1881, Ann. Soc. Ent. France, ser. V Bd. X s. 149 (*Sphyxosoma*)

1 ♂ 4 ♀♀ from Gulbahar, O.-Afghanistan, 1700 m, 2nd. September, 1956

H. G. AMSEL leg.

I first determined these specimens as *Conops superbus* RÖD., but KRÖBERS comment (1925, in LINDNER, E., Die Fliegen der Palaearktischen Region, 4 (35: *Conopidae*): 24) "Syn. ? *flavicaudus* BIG." led me to investigate the type of *flavicaudus* which I expected to be in the BIGOT collection now in the care of Mr. J. E. COLLIN. Mr. COLLIN informed me that *flavicaudus* did not exist in the collection, but a specimen labelled *euzonatus* agreed well with BIGOT's description of *flavicaudus*. In his description of *euzonatus* BIGOT (1887) gives its length as 5 mm, but Mr. COLLIN says that the type is 15 mm in length (as in the description of *flavicaudus*) and suggests that a printer's error occurred in the original description. Mr. COLLIN further suggests that BIGOT redescribed his *flavicauda* as *euzonatus*, a view with which I concur since size is the only apparent difference. The sex difference (i. e. ♀ *flavicauda*, ♂ *euzonatus*) is unimportant as early authors often confused the sexes in *Conopidae*. *C. flavicaudus* was described in a paper dealing with Diptera from Caucasus and Persia and *C. euzonatus* was described from Caucasus. Why BIGOT redescribed *flavicauda* as *euzonatus* we cannot say, but I feel sure that if it had not been for the erroneous description of size in the latter this synonymy would have become apparent to earlier authors. The descriptions of *superbus* RÖDER and *flavicauda* Bigot suggest synonymy and I must thank Prof. J. O. HUSING of Halle for sending RÖDER's type enabling me to confirm this. The name *flavicauda*, having priority, must replace *superbus*. In 1955 Prof. E. JANSENS described and figured a *Conops cypris* from specimens taken in various localities in Cyprus. This species is also referable to *C. flavicaudus* BIG. and KRÖBER (1939, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (II) 4: 366) has already recorded this (as *superbus*) from Limassol, Cyprus. The latter specimen is in the British Museum (Natural History) along with two specimens from BENJAMINAH, Palestine, 12. 9. 1923, O. THEODOR. The full synonymy is now as follows:

Conops flavicaudus (BIGOT)

Sphyxosoma flavicauda BIGOT, 1880, Ann. Soc. Ent. France (V) 10: 149

syn. n. *Conops euzonatus* BIGOT, 1887, Ann. Soc. Ent. France (VII) 6: 33

syn. n. *Conops superbus* RÖDER, 1889, Wien. Ent. Z. 8: 6

syn. n. *Conops cypris* JANSENS, 1955, Bull. Inst. Sci. nat. Belg. 31: 2.

When Dr. AMSEL saw this species he mistook it for small examples of the common wasp of the area *Vespa orientalis* L. In flight he says they behave very like this wasp and constitute a striking example of mimicry (Fig. 1). The abdominal bands of fly and wasp are of identical yellow coloration.

- 2) *Myopa picta* Panzer
1798, Fauna Germ. 59: 22
1 ♀ from Herat, Afghanistan, 970 m, 15. IV. 1956, S. WILKE leg.
A typical female of this distinct species.
- 3) *Zodion cinereum* Fabricius
1794, Entom. syst. vol. 4: 399 (9).
2 ♂♂ Herat, Afghanistan, 970 m, 15. IV. 1956, S. WILKE leg.
These two males are very dark, but it is well known that this species is very variable in colour.
My thanks are offered to Mr. J. S. HAYWOOD for kindly taking the photograph.

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Plate I

(K. G. V. SMITH, Conopidae)

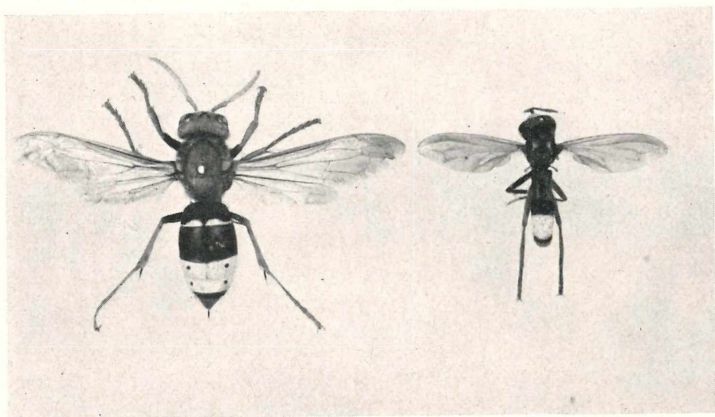


Fig. I. — *Vespa orientalis* L. ♀ and *Conops flavicaudus* Big. ♀.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Beiträge zur naturkundlichen Forschung in Südwestdeutschland](#)

Jahr/Year: 1960

Band/Volume: [19](#)

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