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A new species of Phaonia ROBINEAU-DESVOIDY **from the Alps** (Insecta: Diptera, Muscidae)

by

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Eine neue Art der Gattung Phaonia ROBINEAU-DESVOIDY aus den Alpen (Insecta: Diptera, Muscidae)

Synopsis:

Phaonia brendana n. sp. wird aus der Umgebung von Obergurgl (1850 m, Oetztaler Alpen, Tirol) beschrieben. Sie gehört zu der *grandaeva*-Gruppe, die bisher nur nach Arten aus Fennoskandien und Nordkanada bekannt war.

In July and August 1972 I was again privileged to spend just over three weeks collecting Muscidae and other Diptera around Obergurgl, at the extreme southern end of the Oetz Valley in the western Tyrol. Whilst identifying the material of this collection, a new species of the genus *Phaonia* ROBINEAU-DESVOIDY was found, and this is described in the present paper.

I am very grateful to Dr. Walter Moser for making available to me the hospitality and research facilities of the Alpine Forschungsstelle Obergurgl der Universität Innsbruck, and to my wife for sharing with me the labour of collecting and pinning some 6000 Diptera.

Phaonia brendana sp. nov.

♂. Head: Slightly immature, with antennae a little retracted below lunula. Ground-colour black. Frons narrow, at narrowest point a little broader than diameter of anterior ocellus. Eyes with long but not particularly dense hairs. Parafrontalia and parafacialia dirty silvery-white pruinose, appearing more brownish-grey. Interfrontalia apparently obsolete for half its length, visible only as a black line separating the parafrontalia. 14 - 16 pairs of inclinate *ori,* exten-

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ding from lunula virtually to anterior ocellus, the upper two pairs more reclinate. Antennae and arista black; 3rd segment twice as long as broad and falling short of epistoma by its own width. Arista short-pubescent, the longest individual hairs not as long as its basal diameter. Parafacialia moderate, at middle only a little narrower than width of 3rd antennal segment. Genae moderate, rather broader than width of 3rd antennal segment. Peristomal setae quite long and dense, several of those towards vibrissa directed forwards and rather upwards. Back of head densely setulose, the setae in the upper post-ocular row equal to length of 3rd antennal segment. Mentum of proboscis dark brown, glossy, Palpi dark, slim. —

Thorax: Ground-colour black. Mesonotum and scutellum subshining black, with a few weak traces of brown dust when viewed from above and behind, weakly along the mid-line after suture, at sides along suture, over humeri, notopleura and post-alar calli, and along ventral angle of scutellum. Pleura also subshining, with little dust. Spiracles dark brown. Ground-setulae on mesonotum rather dense and erect. *Acr* 0 + 1; the *prst* setulae in 3 - 4 rows and some of the outer ones rather stronger than the others but hardly half as long as the *prst dc*. *Dc* 2 + 4. 2h. 2 *ph*. 2 *ia*. *Pra* longer than 2nd *npl*, subequal to anterior *npl*. Prosternum, propleural depression, pteropleuron, hypopleuron, squamopleuron, and scutellum on sides and below bare. Auxiliary prostigmatal seta not developed. Mesopleuron with a strong setula in upper anterior corner. Notopleuron bare apart from the setae. *Stpl* 1 + 2, with 2 strong setulae between and below the posterior setae. Scutellum with strong sub-basal lateral and apical setae; disc entirely fine-setulose. —

Legs: Black. Tarsi long, but otherwise unmodified. Fore femur without *ay* setae. Fore tibia without a *p* seta. Fore tarsus without long sensory hairs. Mid femur with a row of short *av* setae, decreasing in length towards tip of femur; with a much longer *pv* row, similarly decreasing in length towards tip, the longest setae twice femoral depth. Mid tibia with 2 p setae, without *ad* or *pv*. Hind femur with a complete row of *av* setae, the longest setae rather longer than femoral depth; *pv* setae present on basal half, and 1 - 2 preapical *pv*. Hind tibia with the calcar situated at apical two-thirds; 2 *ad* and 2 - 4 *ay*, no *pv*; *pv* apical strong, almost as long as the *av*. —

Wings: Strongly infuscated, especially costally, the veins darker seamed, orange-yellow at base. Veins bare except for costa. Costal spine indistinct. Vein 4 not converging with vein 3 at wing-margin. Hind cross-vein weakly sinuous. Squamae deep orange-yellow. Knob of halteres black. —

Abdomen: Ground-colour black. In posterior view densely and evenly brownish-grey dusted with a narrow undusted median vitta on tergites 1 + 2 to 5, tergite 5 also undusted posteriorly. Lateral setae quite long and dense, and tergites 4 and 5 with quite long marginal and discal setae. Sternites dusted, without any special

setae. Sternite 1 bare. [Genitalia not examined.] —

Measurements: Length of wing, 6.5 mm. Length of body, 7.0 mm.

Holotype ♂, Austria, Tyrol: Oetztal, Obergurgl, Pirchhüttberg, 1850 m, Malaise-trap, 27. - 28. VII. 1972 (A. C. and B. Pont). In the British Museum (Natural History), London.

The species is named after my wife, Brenda.

The Pirchhüttberg is an area of pine forest immediately to the north of Obergurgl. It falls steeply from the road down to the Gurgler River. My Malaise-trap was situated in a forest-clearing, on a small level area towards the nothern part of the Pirchhüttberg. It is a spot rarely visited by man or cattle, and the trap remained undisturbed for over two weeks.

Because of the presence of a *pv* apical seta on hind tibia, a very rare character in *Phyonia,* the position of the hind tibial calcar at apical third, and the glossy proboscis, *P. brendana* belongs to the *grandaeva-group* (HENNIG, 1963: 781), Only two Palaearctic species belong here: *grandaeva* (ZETTERSTEDT, 1845), known only from Sweden (Scania, Darlecarlia, Jämtland, Lule Lappmark) and northern Finland; and *atrocyanea* RINGDAHL, 1916, also known from Sweden (Jämtland, Lapland). *P. brendana* differs from these species by the dark halteres, dark legs, dark but not shining body colour, and strongly infuscated wings.

One additional Nearctic species belongs to this group: *atrocitrea* MALLOCH, 1923, from Alaska, Yukon and Quebec, which differs from *brendana* by the sparsely haired eyes and haired hypopleuron. *P. atrocyanea* is also known from North America (Alaska, Yukon, NWT, Quebec, Labrador), where it was described as *citreibasis* MALLOCH, 1920.

In HENNIG's key to Palaearctic *Phaonia* (1963: 790), *brendana* will run to *vagans (*FALLÉN), couplet 185, because of the *pv* apical seta on hind tibia. It differs from *vagans* most obviously by the dark legs and black halteres. If the *prst acr* are regarded as ,,present'', since they are very weakly developed, *brendana* will run to *atrocyanea* RINGDAHL, couplet 109, and differs most obiously from this species by the weakly but obiously dusted body and the strongly infuscated wings.

Reference:

HENNIG, W. (1955 - 1964): Muscidae. — In: LINDNER, E.: Fliegen palaearkt. Reg. **63** b: 1110 pp., 33 plates, 429 text-figs. Schweizerbart, Stuttgart.