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A new species of *Trixoscelis* RONDANI from the Balearic Islands (Spain) (Insecta: Diptera: Trixoscelididae)

With 7 figures

MIGUEL CARLES-TOLRÁ & DANIEL VENTURA

Abstract A new species of *Trixoscelis* RONDANI, namely *T. flagellata*, is described from Menorca (Balearic Islands, Spain).

Keywords Diptera, Trixoscelididae, *Trixoscelis*, new species, Balearic Islands, Spain.

Introduction

Trixoscelis RONDANI (1856) is a mainly Holarctic genus with over 30 Palaearctic species (PAPP 1998). The Iberian fauna is well known due to recent papers by the first author (CARLES-TOLRÁ 1992, 1993a,b, in print). A total of 15 species have been recorded up to now from the Iberian Peninsula, whereas only two of them are known to occur in the Balearic Islands (CARLES-TOLRÁ 1995). In the present paper a new species is described from the Balearic Islands, which increases to 16 the number of Iberobalearic species. This new species together with the recently described ones shows that new species are still expected to be found.

This work is part of the results obtained in two entomological trips to Menorca by the second author in September 1997 and May 1998.

Trixoscelis flagellata sp. n.

Male. Head yellow, frontal triangle, vertex, occiput and postgena dark brown, grey tomentose. Antennae: joints 1 and 2 brownish, joint 3 dark brown, with a yellow dorsal spot behind arista. Chaetotaxy: 2 *ors*, *oc*, *vte*, *vti*, short *pvt*.

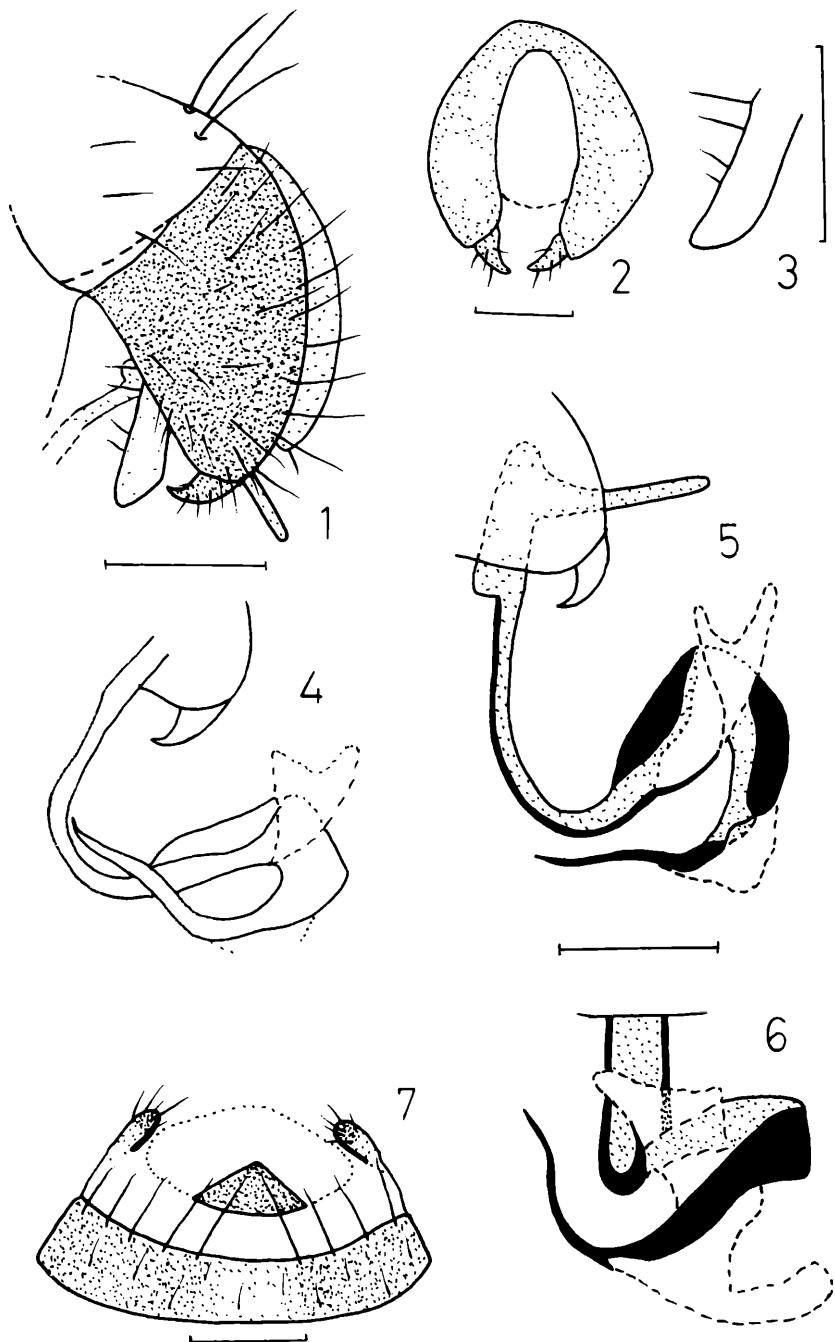
Thorax: dark brown, mesonotum grey dusted excepting 1 pair of longitudinal stripes between *ac* and *dc* rows. Chaetotaxy: 1 *hu*, 2 *np*, 1 *prst*, 2+3 *dc*, 1 *sa*, 2 *pa* (inner much shorter), 2 *sc*, 1 *mp*, 2 *st*. Wing uniformly clear, veins brownish. Haltere whitish.

Legs. Fore leg completely dark brown, except yellow coxa and trochanter. Mid leg completely yellow, except coxa more or less brownish and joint 5 of tarsus slightly brownish. Hind leg dusky yellow, coxa brownish, basitarsus dilated, brown, tarsus brown, apex of joint 2 and joints 3 and 4 yellow.

Abdomen dark brown, grey dusted.

Authors' addresses:

Dr. Miguel Carles-Tolrá, Avda. Príncipe de Asturias 30, ático 1, E-08012 Barcelona (Spain)
Daniel Ventura, C/ Primer de Maig 24, 3º 4º, E-08320 El Masnou (Barcelona, Spain)



Figs 1–7: *Trixoscelis flagellata* sp. n., male genitalia in lateral view (1), male genitalia in posterior view (2), gonite in lateral view (3), aedeagus (sketch) in natural position (4), aedeagus (extended) in lateral view (5), aedeagus in ventral view (6), female sternite 7 and 8 in ventral view (7).

Scales = 0.1 mm

Genitalia brown (figs 1–6). Surstylus (figs 1–2) very small and short, slightly dilated basally, with long hairs. Gonite (fig. 3) wide, blunt, very slightly curved, with anterior hairs. Aedeagus (figs 4–6): very long, with two membranous transparent, alternate expansions (one leftside at middle and one rightside at $\frac{3}{4}$); basal spines absent, base with a narrow and very long prolongation, overpassing epandrial margin; apex very thin and long, recurved backwards.

F e m a l e as the male, except:

Hind tarsus yellow, only joint 5 brownish, basitarsus not dilated. Sternite 7 (fig. 7) normal, not desclerotized posteromedially. Sternite 8 (fig. 7) desclerotized, unpigmented, excepting a brown posteromedial subtriangular sclerotized spot.

T o t a l b o d y l e n g t h males: 1.9–2.2 mm; females: 2.0–2.7 mm.

Type material

Holotype ♂: SPAIN: Balearic Islands: Menorca: Maó, Platja d'Es Grau (UTM 31SFE080234), 24.5.1998, D. VENTURA leg.

Paratypes: 2 ♀♀ as holotype, but D. BELLIDO leg.; other paratypes as holotype, but Far de Favàritx (UTM 31SFE0527), 21.5.1998 1 ♂ 2 ♀♀, D. BELLIDO leg.; Shangril-la (UTM 31SFE073222), 24.5.1998 2 ♀♀, D. VENTURA leg.

Type material preserved in alcohol. Holotype and 3 ♂♂ paratypes deposited in the collection of the first author, other paratypes in the collection of the second author. Total: 2 ♂♂ 6 ♀♀

Discussion: *Trixoscelis flagellata* sp. n. belongs to *frontalis* group (fore leg dark), but its characteristic aedeagus (whip-like, membranous expansions, basal spines absent, very long basal prolongation) makes of it a very distinctive species. By its part, the female has a very peculiar sternite 8: sclerotization only present in its posteromedial part.

Biology: Unknown. All specimens were gathered by sweeping. All localities are placed in the extreme east of Menorca. They are quite different habitats: from a beach with dunes fixed and covered with dense vegetation (Platja d'Es Grau) to places with more (Shangril-la) or less (Far de Favàritx) dense shrubby vegetation. In all sites, the presence of *Pistacia lentiscus* is predominant.

Distribution: Only hitherto known from the isle of Menorca (Balearic Islands).

Etymology: The specific name comes from the Latin noun “*flagellum*” (= whip) and refers to the long, whip-like aedeagus.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Carles-Tolrá Miguel, Ventura Daniel

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