

Lejota Ruficornis (Diptera: Syrphidae) new to the Federal Republic of Germany

By J. R. Haslett

Abstract

The hoverfly *Lejota ruficornis* (Diptera: Syrphidae) is recorded from the Federal Republic of Germany for the first time. Brief notes on the known biology and European distribution of the species are presented.

Lejota ruficornis Zetterstedt 1838 (Syrphidae, Diptera)

Material: Berchtesgaden National Park. Upper Bavaria, 6 May 1986. Jenner, Königsbachalm, 1240 m. 1 ♂ on flower of *Caltha palustris* beside stream bordering mixed wood. J. R. Haslett.

Previous mention of this species in the Federal Republic of Germany is confined to a few very vague references in the literature which infer that the insect has been found here, but which fail to supply any evidence to support such a claim (SACK, 1930; VAN DER GOOT, 1981; BOTHE, 1983). In the absence of specimens or locality information, these reports may be discounted. *L. ruficornis* has been known to occur in neighbouring Austria, as evidenced by a record from STROBL (1893) from Steiermark (as *Myiolepta*). VAN DER GOOT (1981) indicates that the species is also recorded from Poland, otherwise the European distribution remains largely unknown.

Similarly, knowledge of the biology of the insect is at most fragmentary. Both the present record and that of STROBL (1893) note that the specimens were collected from *Caltha palustris* flowers in mountainous regions, suggesting some association with damp habitats at higher altitudes. The presence of deciduous or mixed woodland in the vicinity may also be an important requirement for the species, as BANKOWSKA (1980) states that the larvae of the genus are saprophytic in “decaying and humid trunks of broad leaved trees”. Such habitat is certainly present at the Berchtesgaden site.

There is clearly a need for further detailed study of the habitat requirements and distribution of this species in Europe. The life cycle also remains unknown. The insect may be quite easily overlooked in the field and is most likely to be confused with a middle sized *Cheilosia*, but *Lejota*’s lack of a facial knob provides an easy way of separating these two genera.

The present specimen is in the private collection of the author.

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