
A new *Platycheirus* of the *ambiguus* group (Diptera, Syrphidae) from Kashmir

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Platycheirus kashmiricus **spec. nov.** is described from the Karakorum mountains in Kashmir. The paper includes a key to separate it from the closely similar *P. ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817).

Key words: *Platycheirus ambiguus* group, Kashmir, new species, key, Syrphidae.

Zusammenfassung

Platycheirus kashmiricus **spec. nov.** wird aus dem Karakorum in Kaschmir beschrieben und mit Hilfe eines Bestimmungsschlüssels von der nah verwandten Art *P. ambiguus* (Fallén, 1817) abgegrenzt.

Introduction

Ten species of the *Platycheirus ambiguus* group have up till now been known from the eastern part of the Palaearctic region. This new montane species is described on the basis of a single male in the collections of the Zoölogisch Museum in Amsterdam.

Platycheirus kashmiricus **spec. nov.**

Holotype, ♂, dated "Bei Blüten", "A.Peter leg., Aghil-Gebirge Polu 5220 m 24. VII. 1935", "4e Nederlandsche Karakorum-Expeditie (Ph. C Visser)".

Diagnosis: *Platycheirus kashmiricus* **spec. nov.** closely resembles *P. ambiguus*, but is smaller and has a broader occiput, a shorter eye contiguity and a smaller eye angle. The face widens downwards (eye margins not parallel) and is more produced than in *ambiguus*. The fore femur has a row of long, hair-like bristles postero-laterally.

Description:

♂: Head (figs 1a-d): Eye angle 95°. Eye contiguity short, about as long as the distance between the ocelli of the vertical triangle. Frons and face, except facial tubercle, upper mouth edge and genae, covered by greyish-white pruinosity, more densely on the sides of face and below the antennae. Genae and post-ocular orbits rather broad. Face

seen from in front widening downwards. Antennae black, 3rd segment about 1.6 times longer than broad. Occiput with greyish-white pruinosity. Vertical triangle and dorsal part of post-ocular orbits shining metallic blue, as scutum and scutellum. The hairs on the post-ocular orbits whitish, those on vertical triangle and frons black. – Thorax: Scutum, scutellum and pleurae metallic bluish-grey, shining. Anterolateral part of scutum and pleurae with light greyish-white pollinosity. All pile whitish-yellow. - Wings: Wing microtrichose except for anterobasal half of cell R and basal half of 2nd basal cell bare. Calypter whitish-yellow, haltere pale yellowish-orange. - Legs (figs 1e-h): all legs greyish black except knees yellow and fore femur narrowly so. Fore femur postero-laterally with a long black seta with the apex curved, followed by a row of 5-6 black, straight setae. All setae hair-like and narrowing gradually towards their apices (fig. 1g). Fore and mid tibia antero-laterally, on basal half, with a row of yellow tilted hairs which are slightly longer than the tibial diameter, and a few longer hairs on apical half, the longest reaching the apex of the tibia. Basotarsomere of hind legs slender, only slightly thicker than tibia at apex (fig. 1h). Mid femur anteroventrally with 4-5 straight black setae, evenly distributed on basal third, postero-laterally with a row of short and long white and four evenly spaced long, black, soft setae, the setae are two times as long as the maximum diameter of the femur. – Abdomen (fig. 1i): Tergites shining metallic, dark greyish blue, white haired. Tergites 2-4 each with a pair of somewhat ill-defined, greyish pollinose spots. The spots on tergite 2 dot-like, those on tergites 3-4 oval, pointing obliquely backwards and well isolated from the lateral margins of the tergites.

Size: The holotype indicates a rather small species, about the size of *P. discimanus* (Loew, 1871). Body length: 6.4 mm. Wing length 5.5 mm.

♀: unknown.

Key to separate male *P. kashmiricus* spec. nov. from male *P. ambiguus* (Fallén)

- 1 Eye contiguity short, about 2/3 the length of 3rd antennal segment. Eye angle 95°. Post-ocular orbits on each side of vertical triangle at least as broad as the distance between the ocelli. Face widening downwards; face in profile with facial tubercle and upper mouth-edge equally protruding. Fore femur postero-laterally with a row of long, hair-like black bristles. Halteres pale yellowish-orange. Spots on tergites rather small and roundish *P. kashmiricus*
- Eye contiguity of normal length, as long as 3rd antennal segment. Eye angle 110-120°. Post-ocular orbits on each side of vertical triangle narrow, about as broad as maximum thickness of arista. Face parallel-sided; profile of face rather vertical and flat. Fore femur postero-laterally with a row of short, strong bristles. Halteres normally greyish brown. Spots on tergites squarish *P. ambiguus*

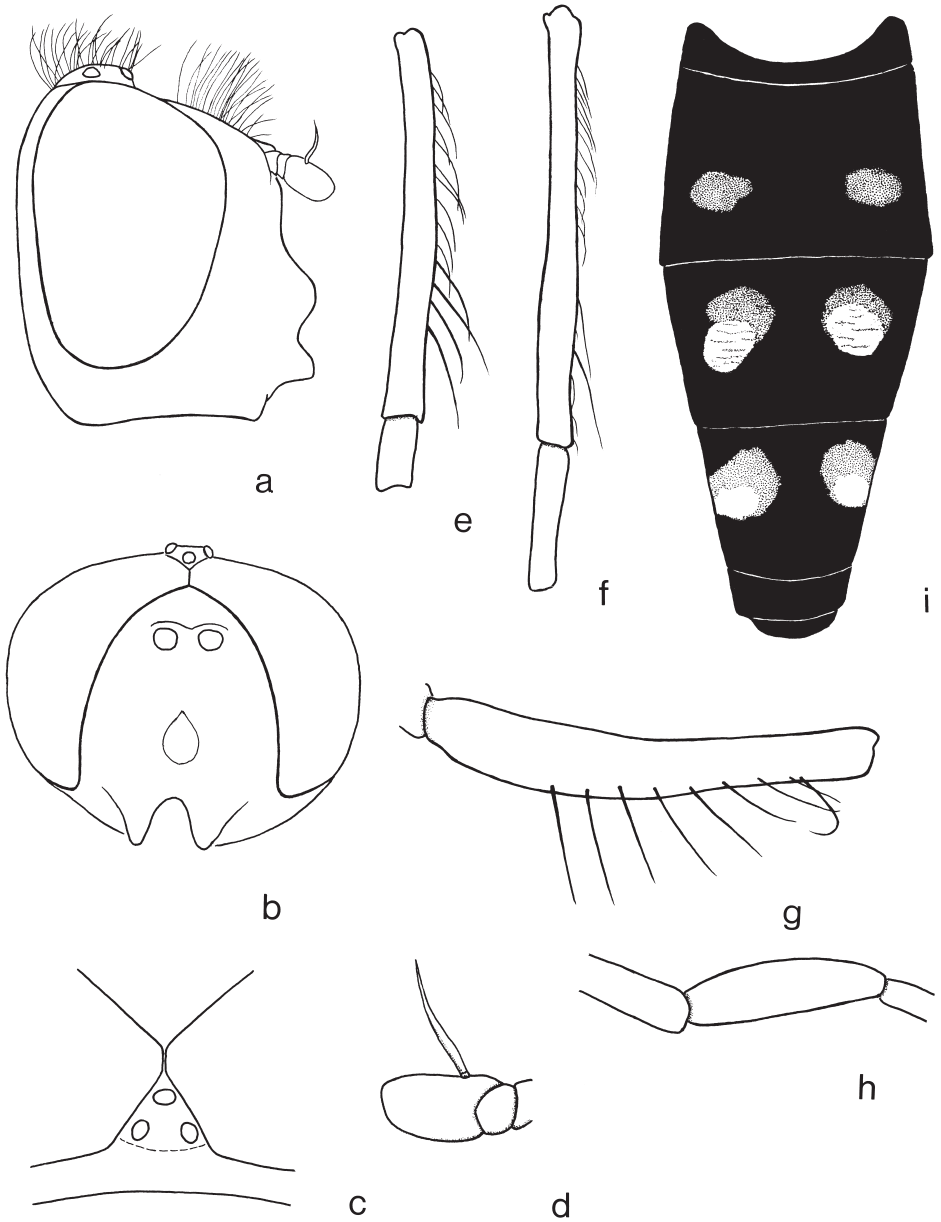


Fig. 1: *Platycheirus kashmiricus* spec. nov., male holotype. – a: head in lateral view; – b: do., seen from in front; – c: vertical triangle area; – d: antenna; – e: left fore tibia; – f: left mid tibia; – g: right fore femur; – h: hind basitarsus; – i: abdomen.

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