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## ***Scaeva dignota* reared on Amsterdam balcony (Diptera, Syrphidae)**

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A 3<sup>rd</sup> instar larva of *Scaeva dignota* (Rondani, 1857) was found on a balcony in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and reared. This is the first time a larva of this mediterranean species has been found in northern Europe.

Key words: *Scaeva dignota*, rearing, Netherlands, Syrphidae.

### Zusammenfassung

Eine Larve des 3. Stadiums von *Scaeva dignota* (Rondani, 1857) wurde auf einem Balkon in Amsterdam gefunden. Am 01.07.2005 schlüpfte ein Männchen. Dies ist der erste Fund einer Larve dieser mediterranen Art aus dem nördlichen Europa.

### Introduction

*Scaeva dignota* (Rondani, 1857) has a circum-mediterranean distribution, the northern limit of which used to be situated somewhere in Central Europe (Dirickx 1994, Speight et al. 1986). In recent years the species showed up in northern parts of Europe, including Denmark and northern Germany (Doczkal 1996, Duty 1995, Torp 1994). The first record of *Scaeva dignota* from the Netherlands was based on three specimens from 1992, one of which had been found on a balcony in Rotterdam (Lucas 1992). Since then, a small number of additional specimens have been found in the Netherlands (Reemer 2000 and unpublished records from the database of the Netherlands Syrphidae Recording Scheme). In 2005 a larva of *S. dignota* was found on a balcony in Amsterdam.

### Observations

A third instar *Scaeva*-larva was found on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2005 on a south-exposed balcony on the first floor of an apartment in the eastern part of Amsterdam (2e Oosterparkstraat). It was crawling around on the stems and leaves of an aphid-infested cultivated form of *Centaurea cyanus* (Asteraceae), growing in a basket hanging on the railing of the balcony. These flowers had been planted in the basket in the spring (March or April) of that year. The larva was transferred into a small plastic tube, in which it pupated on

June 23<sup>rd</sup>. An adult male of *Scaeva dignota* emerged on July 1st, ending a puparial stage of eight days. The specimen and its empty puparium are stored in the collection of the author. In 2004 and 2005, the adults of 16 other species of Syrphidae were found on the same balcony, including *Scaeva pyrastris* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *S. selenitica* (Meigen, 1822). Larvae of four other aphidophagous species were found: *Dasyrphus albostrigatus* (Fallén, 1817), *Episyrphus balteatus* (De Geer, 1776), *Eupeodes corollae* (Fabricius, 1794) and *E. luniger* (Meigen, 1822).

### Discussion

The fact that the larva was found in June on plants that had been sown in the basket two or three months earlier indicates that it is improbable that the larva has been imported with plant material from another country. It seems more likely that a gravid female has oviposited on this balcony a couple of weeks before the larva was found. It is interesting to see that this mediterranean, migratory species is apparently able to complete its development in an urban habitat in northwestern Europe. At least it is during a warm summer period.

The larva of *S. dignota* has been described by Láska et al. (2006), who also record a number of aphid prey species and plants on which the larvae have been found.

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