



Genus: *Blera*



Blera fallax male habitus (© Sander Bot, licensed to the EU under CC-BY-NC 4.0)

Genus: *Blera* Billberg, 1820

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Milesiini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 3

Description

Head

The face is slightly concave below the antennal insertion, with a small or an almost indiscernible facial tubercle. Its colour is yellow and dusted white, except for the medial shiny vitta, which can be yellow or black. The frontal prominence is present and conspicuous and the frontal triangle in males is bare. The head is holoptic in males and the eyes are bare. The basoflagellomere is roundish and the arista is bare.



Thorax

The scutum and the scutellum are black in colour, shiny, except for the anterior part of the scutum and the postpronotum that are lightly greyish dusted. The postpronotum is haired. The postmetacoxal bridge is incomplete and the metasternum is bare.

Wings

The wing is hyaline or slightly yellow-tinged. The wing is microtrichose and the alula is microtrichose and broad, broader than cell bm. The wing vein R_{4+5} is straight, the wing cell r_1 is opened to the wing margin, the wing cell r_{4+5} is closed before the wing margin (with its last section shorter than the crossvein h) and the crossvein r-m is located after (more apically than) the middle of cell dm, except for *Blera eoa* that has the crossvein r-m in the middle of the cell dm

Legs

The legs have no strong modifications and are usually black and yellow.

Abdomen

Each species in Europe has a different pattern in the oval abdomen that helps in the identification.

Genitalia

Male genitalia are large, frequently protruding from beneath the tergite 4.



Blera eoa male habitus (© Sander Bot, licensed to the EU under CC-BY-NC 4.0)

General comments on identification to species level

Differential diagnosis

Blera species have the postpronotum with hairs, the antennae with a dorsal bare arista, and the head has a frontal prominence. *Blera* males are holoptic and the eyes are bare in both sexes. The face is yellow, with or without medial black vitta, the oral margin is clearly notched. The metasternum has no long hairs, and the scutum and pleura are mostly black. The wing venation of *Blera* species is very characteristic, with the wing vein R_{4+5} straight, the wing cell r_1 open to the wing margin, the wing cell r_{4+5} is closed before the wing margin (with its last section shorter

than the crossvein h) and the crossvein r-m is usually located after (more apically than) the middle of cell dm (except for *Blera eoa* that has the crossvein r-m in the middle of the cell dm).

Other genera with similar characteristics are *Brachyopa* (which has the crossvein r-m placed before or at the middle of the cell dm, the body coloration is mostly orange, and it has no frontal prominence) or *Lejota* (with males clearly dichoptic and the face entirely black).



Brachyopa bicolor male



Lejota ruficornis male head

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

There is one wide-spread species in Europe, *Blera fallax*, while the other two taxa (*B. eoa* and *B. nitens*) are restricted to the northern part of Scandinavia and the European parts of Russia.

The genus is found in the Holarctic Region, with 16 Nearctic and 13 Palearctic species, and a single Oriental species in the Himalayas. In the Palearctic, most of the species diversity is found in Eastern Russia and Japan.

Presence in Europe

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France - Mainland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation - European Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

Blera adults are found sporadically in various types of forest (often pine forest), always with abundant blooming plants. Preference in flower visits is for flowers of shrubs, primarily Rosaceae.

i **Type species:** *Musca fallax* Linnaeus, 1758

SWE - stubblomflugor;

NOR - stubbeblomsterfluer;

ENG - wood flies;

FIN - kantopuuharit

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Blera eoa* (Stackelberg, 1928)
2. *Blera fallax* (Linnaeus, 1758)
3. *Blera nitens* (Stackelberg, 1923)

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Attributions

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