



# Genus: *Callicera*



*Callicera aurata* male

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**Genus:** *Callicera* Panzer, 1809

**Family:** Syrphidae

**Subfamily:** Eristalinae

**Tribe:** Callicerini

**Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 7**

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## Description

### Head

The antennae are longer than the head, they are black in most species but red in *C. scintilla*. The arista is white and is placed at the tip of the third antennal segment. The third antennal segment can be twice as long as segment one and two combined, in that case the first antennal segment is twice as long as antennal segment two. Or the third antennal segment is as long as segment one and two combined, and the first antennal segment is as long as antennal segment two. The eye is hairy, with distinct bands of more dense hair visible. The face is black with a small facial tubercle. The face has longer yellowish hairs, but the central part of the face is bare. The frons is bare on the central part.

### Thorax

The scutum is black and shiny but sometimes with clear patterns of dust stripes. The hairs on the mesoscutum are reddish to yellowish-white.

### Wings

The wing is transparent, sometimes parts of the wing with a yellowish tinge. The veins are usually yellowish to brownish.

### Legs

The legs are not modified, they are simple. The legs are mainly yellow, the femora are from yellow to partly black. The tibiae are usually yellow, sometimes the apical part is darkened. Of the tarsi the first two to three segments are yellow, the other tarsal segments are black.

## Abdomen

The abdomen is black, but it usually has a clear golden to brassy sheen. Sometimes the posterior part of the tergites have transversal matt black bands. The hairs on the abdomen are reddish to yellowish, sometimes the tergites are partly black haired.

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# General comments on identification to species level

This genus contains large conspicuous flies that resemble bees with the antenna longer than the head. The arista is white and is placed at the tip of the third antennal segment. The body is black, often with a metallic brassy or golden sheen. Eye haired.

## Diagnostic features

In Europe we have two different groups. The first group has the third antennal segment twice as long as segment one and two combined, and the first antennal segment is twice as long as segment two. The second group has the third antennal segment as long as segment one and two together, and segment one is as long as segment two.



*Callicera aurata* male  
antenna



*Callicera fagesii* male  
antenna



*Callicera fagesii* male  
habitus



*Callicera aenea* male  
habitus

# Geographical distribution and global diversity

The genus *Callicera* occurs in the Palearctic, Nearctic, middle and South America and the oriental region. In Europe seven species are known. Several of the species are widespread but rare, others are restricted to Southern Europe or an even more restricted locality (Cyprus). All species are probably arboreal as adults and therefore relatively seldom recorded.

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## Biology

The adults are primarily arboreal, descending rarely to feed at flowers or to visit streams to drink. Occasionally the females can be found at a great distance from surrounding forests, probably searching for suitable larval habitat. The females lay eggs in rot holes in old and senescent trees. The larvae of the species from the genus *Callicera* are saproxylic and their development is connected to ancient *Fagus/Quercus* forests (Speight, 2020). *Callicera* adults prefer the same habitats, as well as *Pinus* forests with over-mature trees (Speight, 2020).

**Seasonal life cycle.** The species of the genus are probably univoltine, but there might be some species with two generations per year.



**Type species:** *Bibio aenea* Fabricius, 1777

**Common names:**

EN - Longhorns;

SV - bronsblomflugor

## List of species found in Europe:

1. *Callicera aurata* (Rossi, 1790)
2. *Callicera aenea* (Fabricius, 1777)
3. *Callicera fagesii* Guerin-Meneville, 1844
4. *Callicera macquarti* Rondani, 1844
5. *Callicera rufa* Schummel, 1842
6. *Callicera scintilla* Smit, 2014
7. *Callicera spinolae* Rondani, 1844

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## References

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