



Genus: *Copestylum*



Copestylum melleum male

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Genus: *Copestylum* Macquart, 1846

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Volucellini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1

Description

The description of *Copestylum melleum*, a species introduced to Europe, is provided on the Pollinator academy web platform.

General comments on identification to species level

Differential diagnosis

Copestylum species are quite diverse morphologically. The genus belongs to the tribe Volucellini, together with the genera *Graptomyza* Wiedemann, 1820, *Ornidia* Le Peletier & Audinet-Serville, 1828 and *Volucella* Geoffroy, 1762. Volucellines are recognised by their straight or recessive wing vein M_1 and plumose arista.

There are more than 330 described species of *Copestylum*, all of which are native to the New World. In Europe, the genus is represented only by *C. melleum*, which has been introduced to the Canary Islands. *Copestylum melleum* is easy to distinguish from other genera and species by the combination of a plumose arista, veins R_1 and R_{2+3} merging before the wing margin to form a petiole and enclosing cell r_1 together with vein M_1 being strongly recessive. *Copestylum melleum* and the European *Volucella* species share these characteristics. Whereas *Volucella* species have long hairs on the anterior anepimeron, and the face is concave below antennal insertion and


delimiting a facial tubercle, *C. melleum* has a bare anterior anepimeron (characteristic of all *Copestylum* species) and a straight face, with an inconspicuous facial tubercle. Moreover, *C. melleum* has an orange abdomen (a pattern not occurring in *Volucella* species).

Geographical distribution and global diversity

Copestylum are found from Canada south to Chile and Argentina, although *C. melleum* (native of Mexico) has also been introduced to the Canary Islands.

Biology

Reproduction and larval biology. The larvae are saprophagous and live in a wide variety of decaying plant material, including exuding tree sap, decaying cacti and aloes, decaying forest flowers, fruits, stems of non-woody plants, and in watertanks of bromeliad and heliconia plants. The larvae of *Copestylum melleum* are assumed to feed in decaying plant material (Romig and Hauser, 2004).

 **Type species:** *Copestylum flaviventris* Macquart, 1846

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Copestylum melleum* (Jaennicke, 1867)

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Attributions

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