



Genus: *Ferdinandea*



Ferdinandea cuprea male

(© Sander Bot)

Genus: *Ferdinandea* Rondani, 1844

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Rhingiini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 4

Description

Head

The basoflagellomere is rounded, broader than long (except in *F. fumipennis* where it is about as long as wide). On the face a facial knob is present. The eyes are hairy.

Thorax

The mesonotum is greyish to black, with 2 medial, longitudinal, grey dust stripes. Black bristles on the lateral and posterior margins of the mesonotum and scutellum are present. The anterior anepisternum is bare, while the posterior anepisternum is usually covered with yellow hairs and some long black bristles, except in *F. fumipennis* where the hairs are mainly black and the bristles lack.

Wings

Dark spots are present on the wings. The vein R_{4+5} is not sinuate. The crossvein r-m is at the middle of the discal cell.

Legs

Legs colour vary from all yellow to mostly black femora and tibiae. Additionally the colour of the hairs are variable: yellow or black, or intermixed. In some species short bristles (black or orange-yellow) are present on tibiae and/or tarsi.

Abdomen

The abdomen is copper green to brown, mostly shiny (except posterior, transverse black bar on tergites 2 and 3, which is often quite faint in *F. ruficornis*), and covered with yellow hairs.



Ferdinandea aurea male head



Ferdinandea aurea male habitus



Ferdinandea cuprea male habitus

General comments on identification to species level

Differential diagnosis

The genus *Ferdinandea* Rondani, 1844 (Syrphidae: Eristalinae) comprises medium-sized hoverflies with strong black bristles on the lateral and posterior margins of the mesonotum and scutellum, as well as dark spots on the wings. Peck (1988) lists five European species in this genus. Specimens belonging to the genus *Ferdinandea* can be easily identified thanks to body coloration: the mesonotum is grayish, while the abdomen is greenish. *Ferdinandea* specimens can be confused with *Caliprobola speciosa* due to body coloration, however differences may be observed on the mesonotum (longitudinal gray stripes and distinct black bristles are present in *Ferdinandea*, while absent in *Caliprobola speciosa*), on scutellum (distinct black bristles are present in *Ferdinandea*, while absent in *Caliprobola speciosa*) and on wings (distinct

dark spots are present in *Ferdinandea*, but absent in *Caliprobola speciosa*).



Caliprobola speciosa male habitus



Ferdinandea aurea male habitus



Ferdinandea cuprea male habitus

(© Sander Bot)

Geographical distribution and global diversity

Ferdinandea occurs in Palearctic, across Europe (from Ireland eastwards through central/northern parts of Eurasia to the Pacific coast of Siberia and Japan), in north Africa and Transcaucasia and Israel.

Presence in Europe

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation - European

Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

Adult behaviour and flower preferences. *Ferdinandea* are found along forest edges (mainly deciduous) or along rivers, where adults perch on the bark of trees and visit flowers, such as *Campanula latifolia*, *Convolvulus*, *Crataegus*, *Dianthus*, *Hedera*, *Hieracium*, *Hypericum*, *Leontodon*, *Lonicera*, *Mentha*, *Oenothera*, *Prunus cerasus*, *Ranunculus*, *Rosa*, *Rubus*, *Scabiosa*, *Sonchus*, *Taraxacum*, *Ulmus*.

Reproduction and larval biology. *Ferdinandea* larvae live in the sap streams of deciduous trees.

Seasonal life cycle. The adults have a long flight period from early spring to late autumn.



Type species: *Conops cuprea* Scopoli, 1763

Common names:

FI - viirukeilaset;

NB - bronseblomsterfluer

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Ferdinandea aurea* Rondani, 1844
2. *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli, 1763)

3. *Ferdinandea fumipennis* Kassebeer, 1999

4. *Ferdinandea ruficornis* (Fabricius, 1775)

References

Peck, L.V. 1988. Syrphidae. In: Soos, A. & Papp, L. (eds.) *Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera*, 8: 11-230. Akad.Kiado, Budapest.

Ricarte A. & Marcos-Garcia M. 2007. *Ferdinandea fumipennis* Kassebeer, 1999 (Diptera:Syrphidae), nueva especie para el continente europeo. *Boletín de la Asociación Española de Entomología*, 31(1-2): 205-208.

Ricarte A., Nedeljković Z., Quinto J. and Marcos-Garcia M.A. 2010. The Genus *Ferdinandea* Rondani, 1844 (Diptera, Syrphidae) in the Iberian Peninsula: First Records and new Breeding Sites. *Journal of the Entomological Research Society*, 12(3): 57-69.

Speight, M.C.D. 2020. Species accounts of European Syrphidae, 2020. Syrph the Net, the database of European Syrphidae (Diptera). *Syrph the Net publications*, Dublin 104: 1-314.

van Veen, M.P. 2004. *Hoverflies of northwest Europe: identification keys to the Syrphidae*. KNNV Publishing, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 254 pp.

Vujić, A., Speight, M.C.D., de Courcy Williams, M., Rojo, S., Stahls, G., Radenković, S., Likov, L., Miličić, M., Perez-Banon, C., Falk, S. and Petanidou, T. 2020. *Atlas of the Hoverflies of Greece (Diptera: Syrphidae)*. Koninklijke Brill NV, Leiden, Netherlands. 384 pp.

Attributions

This factsheet was created by Taxo-Fly and is one of the outputs from a network of European Initiatives dedicated to pollinators, such as the EU Pollinator Monitoring

Scheme (EUPoMS), the Preparatory Action for EU Pollinator Monitoring Scheme and Indicators (SPRING project), the Horizon 2020 Europe research projects (POSHBEE, SAFEGUARD), and European National action plans for pollinators.

Authors

Photographs: Sander Bot (Taxo-Fly team)

Text: Laura Likov (Taxo-Fly team)

Reviewer: Daniele Sommaggio (Taxo-Fly team)

License

The content of this factsheet is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike ([CC BY-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)).

Image rights

Most images created under the Taxo-Fly project have an open Creative Commons license ([CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)). However, some images are licensed to the European Union and shared under the Creative Commons license Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International ([CC-BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)). This is indicated in the image caption.

