



Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Heringia*



Heringia heringi male habitus

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

Genus: *Heringia* Rondani, 1856

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Pipizini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 2

Description

Head

The face of *Heringia* is flat, dusted, covered with long hairs, and lacks parafacia. The eye has long hairs, male is holoptic. The lunule is bare and black. Antennal fossa is undivided. Frons is shiny and covered with long hairs; in female shiny usually with a pair of triangular lateral dust spots. The basoflagellomere is elongated, more than 2 times longer than high, black or with reddish basolateral corner. The arista is bare, inserted dorsally in the basal 1/5 the basoflagellomere, and is longer than the basoflagellomere.

Thorax

Thorax is hairy and shiny. Scutum and scutellum are black, usually with long hairs. Dorsal and ventral hairs patches of katepisternum are clearly separated by a bare central part (no microtrichia are present).

Wings

Wing is hyaline or dark-brown infuscated in apical half and/or along veins, completely covered with microtrichia. Vein M_1 is progressive apically, cell $r_4 + 5$ is acute apically.

Legs

Legs are simple, black except eventually base and apex of tibia and tarsi, which could be, at least partly, reddish yellow. Trochanter of male is simple, without a ventral spur. Leg hairs are variable for length and colour.

Abdomen

Abdomen is black, narrow. Tergites are shiny laterally and dull medially.



Heringia heringi male



Heringia heringi female



Heringia adpropinquans female

General comments on identification to species level

The genus *Heringia* comprises small to medium sized typically black (dark) species, having a flat face with long hairs, and elongated abdomen. Katepimeron is without hairs. Body length ranges from 5 to 11 mm. Male coxae and trochanters have no spurs. Female basoflagellomere is 2 times longer than wide, and the frons has lateral dust spots. In the male genitalia the aedeagus is unsegmented, and surstylus is elongated and oval.

Differential diagnosis

Cheilosia and *Chrysosyrphus* are two genera with species similar to *Heringia*, but in *Cheilosia* and *Chrysosyrphus* the face has a distinct facial tubercle, whereas in *Heringia* the face is flat. *Heringia* differs from genus *Pipiza* as the frons is not protruded, while in *Pipiza* the frons is conically protruded. *Heringia* is also similar in appearance to genus *Claussenia*, but differs by the non-segmented aedeagus and the elongated, oval surstylus, whereas the aedeagus is two-segmented and surstylus has a basal prong in *Claussenia*. In females the scutellar margin lacks long black bristles, while scutellar margin has long black bristles in *Claussenia*. *Heringia* differs from genus *Cryptopipiza* by absence of long, scattered white hairs on thoracic katepimeron, which are present in *Cryptopipiza*.



Cheilosia nigripes male
head



Chrysosyrphus nasutus
female head



Pipiza lugubris female
head



Cryptopipiza notabila
female katepimeron

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

Geographical distribution and global diversity

The distributional range is from southern Norway to southern Spain and the Mediterranean (including Crete); from Ireland eastwards through central and southern Eurasia to Greece, Romania, Turkey and European parts of Russia; Mongolia and the Canary Islands.

Presence in Europe

Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands,

North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation - European Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

Adult behaviour and flower preferences. Adults prefers forests; deciduous forest (*Fagus*, *Quercus*), including alluvial hardwood forest, plus broad-leaved evergreen forest (*Q. ilex/Q. suber*), orchards and sometimes suburban gardens (where fruit trees are present). Adult flies low among the foliage of bushes and within low-growing vegetation, at the edge of clearings or along paths, usually in partial shade; visits flowers in partially shaded situations; comes out into the open to sun-bathe on the foliage of low-growing shrubs in the evening. Flowers visited include *Alliaria*, *Allium ursinum*, *Anthriscus*, *Caltha*, *Erica sativa*, *Hypericum*, *Prunus spinosa*.

Reproduction and larval biology. Larvae are predators of gall-making or leaf-curling aphids or psyllids on various trees, e.g. *Populus* and *Ulmus*, fruit trees e.g. *Malus*, *Prunus* spp., *Pyrus*, shrubs e.g. *Laurus*, *Pistachio* and live within the aphid galls. The larvae overwinter in diapause.

Seasonal life cycle. The flight period is generally end April/July, with occasional specimens in August, but with a second generation in

August/September in southern Europe.



Type species: *Pipiza heringi* Zetterstedt, 1843

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Heringia adpropinquans* (Becker, 1908)
2. *Heringia heringi* (Zetterstedt, 1843)

References

Claussen, C., Goeldlin de Tiefenau, P. & Lucas, J.A.W. (1994) Zur Identität von *Pipizella heringii* (Zetterstedt) var. *hispanica* Strobl, 1909 - mit Typenrevision der paläarktischen Arten der Gattung *Heringia* Rondani, 1856, sensu stricto (Diptera: Syrphidae). *Bull.Soc.ent.Suisse*, 67: 309-326.

IUCN. 2021. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2021-3. Available at: www.iucnredlist.org. (Accessed: 08Mart 2021).

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.

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: Ante Vujić (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](#)).

Image rights

Most images created under the Taxo-Fly project have an open Creative Commons license ([CC 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](#)). This is indicated in the image caption.



Funded by the

