



Genus: *Lejops*



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

Genus: *Lejops* Rondani, 1857

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Eristalini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1

Description

Please refer to the description of *Lejops vittatus*.

General comments on identification to species level

The current genus concept of *Lejops* includes a single species from Europe, *Lejops vittatus*. The genus belongs to a small group of genera that have the wing vein R_{4+5} looped and the scutum black with longitudinal grey-dusted stripes, shared with the genera *Helophilus*, *Mesembrius*, *Anasimyia*, and *Parhelophilus*. In this group of genera, the arista is bare, the wing vein M1 runs parallel to the wing margin, meeting the vein R_{4+5} at an acute angle, and the wing vein R1 is open at the wing margin.

Lejops can be distinguished by the wing pterostigma being very short, simulating a crossvein, and by the abdominal pattern: the abdominal tergites 2, 3, and 4 are black, yellow at the lateral margins, black-dusted medially with two medial longitudinal elongated grey-dusted spots on each tergite. It resembles *Anasimyia* species, but *Lejops* has the antenna black rather than orange or brown as in *Anasimyia*.

Differential diagnosis



Anasimyia contracta male



Helophilus hybridus male



Parhelophilus consimilis male

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

Lejops vittatus is found from the British Isles, Central and Northern Europe eastwards to Siberia and the Pacific coast, including Middle Asia and the European Mediterranean countries and Turkey.

Presence in Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland,

Romania, Russian Federation - European Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

The larva is undescribed, but assumed to live in wet decaying vegetation. Waitzbauer (1976) recorded that the eggs of this species are laid on the stems and leaves of emergent plants such as *Typha*, and the larvae fall into the water once hatched. The larvae apparently remain more-or-less at the water surface, in association with floating plants such as Lemna, for most of their development, but by the last instar have moved into the submerged organic ooze/mud at the bottom of the pond or ditch in which they are living (Speight, 2020).

 **Type species:** *Mallota vittata* Meigen, 1822

Common names:

ENG - Clubrush Fly;

DUT - heenzweefvlieg;

SWE - sävblomflugor

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Lejops vittatus* (Meigen, 1822)
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