



Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Meligramma*



Meligramma cingulata male habitus

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Genus: *Meligramma* Frey, 1946

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Syrphinae

Tribe: Syrphini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 3

Description

Head

The face has an oval facial tubercle, covered with long hairs and lacks parafacia. The face is completely yellow without black median stripe, except in *M. cingulata* where the face is completely black.

The oral margin is black. Eye is bare, the male is holoptic. The antennal fossa is undivided. Frons is hairy and almost completely dusted except for a small area around the antenna. The basoflagellomere is slightly longer than broad, rounded or of rhomboid shape, brownish to black. The arista is inserted dorsally in the basal half of the basoflagellomere, is longer than the basoflagellomere, with hairs shorter than width of arista.

Thorax

The thorax is hairy and pruinose. The scutum and scutellum are dull, black, covered with long hairs. The dorsal and ventral patches of ketepisternum hairs are separated.

Wings

Wing is hyaline, completely covered with microtrichia.

Legs

Legs are simple. The hind leg is mostly black except eventually base and apex of tibia and tarsi which can be brown-reddish. The front and mid legs are mostly reddish-yellow except for at least black basal half of the femora. Leg hairs are variable in length and color.

Abdomen

Abdomen is black; terga 2-4 with a pair of yellow lateral maculae (or transversal stripe). Colour, length, and composition of hairs, and pruinosity on tergites and sternites are variable.



Meligramma triangulifera male head



Meligramma cingulata female head



Meligramma triangulifera female head

General comments on identification to species level

The genus *Meligramma* comprises small to average sized hoverflies with virtually bare eyes, a shiny or subshiny thorax and a blackdark, parallel sided abdomen with transverse yellow markings. Diagnostic characters are: anterior anepisternum bare, calypter bare dorsally, scutum usually with at most poorly defined yellow, lateral longitudinal stripes, not sharply defined; metasternum bare, tergites without premarginal sulcus.

Differential diagnosis

Genus *Meligramma* is similar to genus *Melangyna* from which differs by hind coxa without an apical tuft of hairs at postero-medial angle (present in *Melangyna*), yellow markings on tergites usually oblique, often connected (always separated on tergites 2-4 in *Melangyna*), face entirely yellow, except in *Meligramma cingulata* which has a completely black face (face usually with black median stripe in *Melangyna*).



Melangyna lasiophthalma male
habitus



Melangyna umbellatarum female
head



Melangyna compositarum male
habitus

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

Distributed in the Palearctic region.

Presence in Europe

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of

Man, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, 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 prefer forests; deciduous forest (*Fagus/Quercus*). Adult habitat and habits: primarily arboreal, but descends to visit flowers; edges of clearings, tracksides etc.; males hover over tracks or in woodland glades, from 3m upwards. Flowers visited: white umbellifers; *Acer pseudoplatanus*, *Crataegus* spp., *Ligustrum*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Prunus spinosa*, *Rubus idaeus*, *Salix*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Sorbus aucuparia*, *Urtica dioica*, *Viburnus opulus*.

Reproduction and larval biology. The larvae are aphid-feeding.

Seasonal life cycle. The flight period: April/June and July/beginning September.



Type species: *Scaeva guttata* Fallén, 1817

Common names:

SV - flickblomflugor;

NB - krattblomsterfluer

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Meligramma cingulatum* (Egger, 1860)
2. *Meligramma guttatum* (Fallén 1817)
3. *Meligramma trianguliferum* (Zetterstedt, 1843)

References

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Attributions

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