



Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Neocnemodon*



Neocnemodon vitripennis male habitus

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Genus: *Neocnemodon* Goffe 1944

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Pipizinae

Tribe: Pipizini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 7

Description

Head

The face of *Neocnemodonis* flat, shiny, covered with long hairs, without parafacia. Eye has long hairs; male is holoptic. Lunule is bare and black. Antennal fossa is undivided. Frons is shiny and covered with long hairs; in female frons is shiny usually with a pair of triangular lateral pruinose spots (which however may completely be absent). Basoflagellomere is short, as long as high, black or with reddish baso-lateral corner. Arista is bare, inserted dorsally in basal 1/3 of the basoflagellomere, and is longer than the basoflagellomere.

Thorax

Thorax is black, covered with long hairs. Scutum and scutellum are black, dull, usually covered with long hairs. Dorsal and ventral hair patches of katepisternum are clearly separated by a bare central part. Katepimeron is completely bare.

Wings

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

Legs

Legs are black except eventually base and apex of tibia and tarsi which, at least partly, could be reddish yellow. Hind trochanter of male has a ventral spur. Leg hairs exhibit variability in both length and colour.

Abdomen

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



Neocnemodon verrucula habitus male



Neocnemodon verrucula hind trochanter



Neocnemodon fulvimanus female head

General comments on identification to species level

The genus *Neocnemodon* comprises of small to medium sized, black (dark) species, having a flat face with long hairs, and an elongated abdomen. The katepimeron lacks hairs. Body length ranges from 5 to 11 mm. Male coxae and trochanters have spurs. Basoflagellomere is short, as long as high. Female frons has very small or completely absent lateral dust spots. Male genitalia with a two-segmented aedeagus, and the surstylus is slightly curved, and narrowing in apical half.

Differential diagnosis

Cheilosia and *Chrysosyrphus* are two genera with species similar in appearance to *Neocnemodon*, but in *Cheilosia* and *Chrysosyrphus* the face has a distinct facial tubercle, whereas the face is flat in *Neocnemodon*. *Neocnemodon* differs from genus *Pipiza* as the frons is not protruded, while in *Pipiza* the frons is conically protruded. *Neocnemodon* is similar to *Heringia* and *Claussenia*, and differs in male by coxae and trochanters with spurs (spurs lacking in *Heringia* and *Claussenia*), and in female the basoflagellomere is not, or only slightly longer than high, and the frons has very small and inconspicuous dust spots (basoflagellomere longer than high and frons with clear dust spots in *Heringia* and *Claussenia*).



Cheilosia nigripes male head



Pipiza lugubris male head



Claussenia hispanica male head

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

Distributional range is Palearctic.

Presence in Europe

Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, 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; mature mixed, coniferous (*Abies*), deciduous (acidophilous *Quercus*, thermophilous *Quercus*) and evergreen (*Q. ilex*) forest. Adults are apparently largely arboreal, but descend to visit flowers; sunbathes on the foliage of low-growing shrubs in the evening, in sunlit glades. Can also be found flying in a rapid, zigzag manner, around the foliage of large-leaved, low-growing plants at the edge of woodland, and settling briefly on their foliage. Both sexes may visit sandy/gravelly edges of woodland streams to drink, in dappled sunlight, in hot weather. Flowers visited: white umbellifers; *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Origanum*, *Prunus serotina*, *Rosa rugosa*, *Rubus*, *Vaccinium uliginosus*.

Reproduction and larval biology. Larvae feeding on aphids.

Seasonal life cycle. Flight period: end May/June and August/September (July/September at higher altitudes).



Type species: *Cnemodon latitarsis* Egger, 1865

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Neocnemodon brevidens* (Egger, 1865)
2. *Neocnemodon fulvimanus* (Zetterstedt, 1843)
3. *Neocnemodon larusi* (Vujić, 1999)
4. *Neocnemodon latitarsis* (Egger, 1865)
5. *Neocnemodon pubescens* (Delucchi & Pschorn-Walcher, 1955)
6. *Neocnemodon verrucula* (Collin, 1931)
7. *Neocnemodon vitripennis* (Meigen, 1822)

References

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.

Vujić, A. (1999): The subgenus *Neocnemodon* GOFFE, 1944 (Diptera, Syrphidae) on the Balkan Peninsula and description of *Heringia (Neocnemodon) larusi* spec. nov. *Dipteron*, 2(7): 133-142.

Attributions

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