



# Genus: *Palumbia*



*Palumbia bellieri* female

**Genus:** *Palumbia* Rondani, 1865

**Family:** Syrphidae

**Subfamily:** Eristalinae

**Tribe:** Milesiini

**Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1**

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## Description

### Head

The face is concave in both sexes, and completely covered with yellowish dust (except the genae). The basoflagellomere is rounded; the arista is long.



*Palumbia bellieri* female  
head

## Thorax

The scutum and the scutellum are black, completely and densely covered with yellow dust and with yellow hairs and bristles laterally.

## Wings

The wings are completely covered with microtrichia; wing vein  $R_{4+5}$  is strongly sinuated; the cell  $R_{4+5}$  has a petiole as long as or longer than the humeral crossvein.

## Legs

The legs are simple, without modifications; the coloration varies from almost entirely orange-yellow to a combination of black and yellow.

## Abdomen

The tergites are black or dark brown, with a pair of yellow lateral markings at least on tergite 2 and in *P. bellieri* also smaller yellow markings on tergite 3.

## Genitalia

Male: the surstylus is triangular, with a concave ventro-apical margin. The surstyli are slightly asymmetric; the dorsal parts of the surstyli have a membranous area. The aedeagal apodeme is with a subapical ventral keel.

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# General comments on identification to species level

## Differential diagnosis

The genus *Palumbia* is very similar to *Eristalis* but differs in the following characteristics: the metasternum is hairy in *Palumbia* but bare in *Eristalis*. The mesonotum is densely covered with yellow dust in *Palumbia* (this dusting is lacking in *Eristalis*), and there is a difference in the shape and size of the yellow markings on the tergites. Additionally, it is similar to the Oriental genus *Korinchia* Edwards, 1919, however there is a difference in the distribution and in the wing venation: in *Palumbia* cell  $R_{4+5}$  has a petiole as long as or longer than the humeral crossvein, whereas in *Korinchiathis* petiole is shorter than the humeral crossvein.



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

# Geographical distribution and global diversity

A small genus comprising two sub-genera: the Palaearctic *Palumbia* and the Oriental *Korinchia*. Only three species are known in the subgenus *Palumbia*, two of them Palaearctic and one of them Nearctic. In Europe there is only one *Palumbia* species (*P. bellieri*) distributed in Italy (Sicily) and Greece (Peloponnese).

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## Presence in Europe

Bulgaria, Greece, Italy.

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## Biology

### Adult behaviour and flower preferences

The Palearctic *Palumbia* species prefer the open ground in the *Pinus/Cedrus* forests, or montane grassland and streamsides, visiting most often *Euphorbia* flowers. Adults fly in the shade around midday but in the open in the evening. In the open it apparently flies rather slowly, low down over herb-layer vegetation. It has also been found flying around seasonal pool-edges along a small stream.

### Reproduction and larval biology

The developmental stages of this genus are still undescribed.

### Seasonal life cycle

The adults of *Palumbia* are active in spring (March) and summer (Jun-August).

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 **Type species:** *Palumbia sicula* Rondani, 1865

### List of species found in Europe:

1. *Palumbia bellieri* (Bigot, 1860)

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## References

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