



Genus: *Parhelophilus*



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

Genus: *Parhelophilus* Girschner, 1897

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Eristalini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 5

Description

Head

The eyes are dichoptic in the male. The antennae are mostly reddish to orange with the basoflagellomere orange, rounded apically and a bare arista. The face is yellow and completely dusted. The eyes are bare.



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

Thorax

The mesonotum is dark brown, slightly matte, with two medial and two lateral broad grey dust stripes. The hairs on the mesonotum are yellow. The scutellum is yellow, except for the dark

brown anterolateral corners, and the hairs on scutellum are mainly yellow, except for black hairs medially.

Wings

Cell R_1 is open; the veins are brown; vein R_{4+5} is strongly sinuate. The wing is entirely covered with microtrichia; the pterostigma is very short.

Legs

The hind leg tibia has one dark band on the apical half. In *P. frutetorum* and *P. crococolonatus* the hind leg femur has a posteroventral tubercle covered with a tuft of black hairs.



Parhelophilus frutetorum hind leg femur male (© Sander Bot, licensed to the EU under CC-BY-NC 4.0)

Abdomen

Tapering to the tip. The tergites are black and slightly matte. Tergite 2 is dark brown with a pair of large lateral yellow markings, with a yellow posterior margin and with a grey dust spot on the posterior margin; tergite 3 has a pair of smaller lateral yellow markings, with a yellow posterior margin, and with three dust spots; tergite 4 has a broad yellow band on the posterior margin.

Genitalia

Male: The surstylus varies from curved and broad to almost parallel margins; the cercus shape varies from triangular to quadratic.

General comments on identification to species level

The genus *Parhelophilus* comprises large-sized hoverflies, closely allied to *Helophilus* with which they share the yellowish banded thorax. However, *Helophilus* are generally larger species than *Parhelophilus*, and *Helophilus* has a bare facial stripe that is lacking in *Parhelophilus*.

Differential diagnosis



Helophilus trivittatus female



Helophilus trivittatus male



Parhelophilus frutetorum female

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

Parhelophilus is a Palearctic genus, widespread across Europe into Russia as far as eastern Siberia and south to North Africa.

Presence in Europe

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, 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


The adults of *Parhelophilus* prefer wetlands, pools in alluvial forests, fen, marsh and reed beds with patches of standing water, also canals and water-filled ditches. They fly fast in open areas in wet woodland and fen carr, including small glades, usually beside standing water, settling on low-growing plants, bushes and shrubs. They visit flowers such as white umbellifers, *Bidens cernua*, *Cistus*, *Cornus*, *Crataegus*, *Filipendula*, *Frangula alnus*, *Menyanthes*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Ranunculus*, *Rubus*, *Sambucus*, *Viburnum opulus*.

Reproduction and larval biology

Larva of only two of the five European species are described, from decaying rhizomes in a woodland pond.

Seasonal life cycle

The developmental cycle is annual, with a flight period during spring and summer, with peak in May to June.

 **Type species:** *Syrphus frutetorum* Fabricius, 1775

Common names:

ENG - bog flies;

NOR - strandblomsterfluer;

SWE -strandblomflugor;

FIN - lampisurrit

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Parhelophilus consimilis* (Malm, 1863)
2. *Parhelophilus crococronatus* Reemer, 2000
3. *Parhelophilus frutetorum* (Fabricius, 1775)
4. *Parhelophilus sibiricus* (Stackelberg, 1924)
5. *Parhelophilus versicolor* (Fabricius, 1794)

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 104: 1-314.

van Veen, M.P. (2004). *Hoverflies of northwest Europe: identification keys to the Syrphidae*. KNNV Publishing, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 254 pp.

Attributions

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Authors

Photographs: Sander Bot (Taxo-Fly team)

Text: Laura Likov (Taxo-Fly team)

Reviewer: Francis Gilbert (Taxo-Fly team)

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