



Genus: *Pipiza*



Pipiza noctiluca male

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Genus: *Pipiza* Fallén, 1810

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Pipizinae

Tribe: Pipizini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 12

Description

Head

The face of *Pipiza* is flat, dusted, covered with long hairs, without parafacia. The eye is long haired. The male is holoptic and the female is dichoptic. The lunule is bare and black. Antennal fossa is undivided. Frons is hairy and sometimes dusted, in the female shiny and usually with a pair of triangular lateral dust spots. The basoflagellomere is usually as long as broad, rounded or rhomboid shaped, black or with reddish baso-lateral corner. The arista is inserted dorsally in the basal half of the basoflagellomere, and is longer than the basoflagellomere, with hairs shorter than the width of the arista.

Thorax

The thorax is hairy and shiny. Scutum and scutellum are black, usually with long hairs. Anterior anepisternum and katepimeron are very short haired. Dorsal and ventral hair patches of katepisternum are clearly separated by a bare central area.

Wings

The wing is hyaline or with dark-brown infuscation medially and/or along veins, completely covered with microtrichia. Cells r_1 and r_{2+3} are open, r-m (medial cross-vein) is located before middle of cell dm (discal cell).

Legs

The legs are simple, black, except sometimes the base and apex of tibia and tarsi are, at least partly, reddish yellow. Hind trochanter of male is simple, without a ventral spur. The leg hairs are variable for length and colour.

Abdomen

Abdomen The abdomen is black, except tergite 2 (and also tergite 3 in some species) with a pair of yellow-reddish lateral spots. The colour, length, and composition of hairs and dusting on tergites and sternites is variable.

General comments on identification to species level



Pipiza lugubris head lateral



Cheilosia mutabilis head lateral



Chrysogaster solstitialis head lateral

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Differential diagnosis

The genus *Pipiza* comprises small to medium sized typically black (dark) species, having a flat face with long hairs, the frons conically protruded forward at the level of antenna and an oval abdomen, usually with a pair of yellow-reddish spots on tergite 2. The katepimeron lacks hairs. The body length ranges from 5 - 12 mm. The male genitalia are with two clear apomorphies: the surstylus with a well-developed dorsal semicircular lobe, and the lower gonocercus with a sickle-cell like shape.

Cheilosia and *Chrysosyrphus* are two genera with species similar to those of *Pipiza*, but in *Cheilosia* and *Chrysosyrphus* the face has a distinct facial tubercle. The genera *Chrysogaster*, *Melanogaster*, *Neocnemodon*, *Pipizella*, *Claussenia* and *Heringia* have black species with a flat face like in *Pipiza*, but these genera lack a conically protruded frons.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

Presence in Europe

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation - European Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

Adult behaviour and flower preferences. Preferred habitats of *Pipiza* species mostly include forest, forest edges, tall herbs and shrubs along tracks and in open areas. Adults rest on leaves or visit flowers like *Stellaria* spp and *Smiranium* spp.

Reproduction and larval biology. The larvae are predatory and feed on gall-forming aphids on foliage.

Seasonal life cycle. Adults of all species fly in spring or early summer, often all sympatric species appear together at the same time.



Type species: *Musca noctiluca* Linnaeus, 1758

Common names:

SV - gallblomflugor;

FI - aitosysiset

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Pipiza accola* Violovitsh, 1985
2. *Pipiza austriaca* Meigen, 1822
3. *Pipiza carbonaria* Meigen, 1822
4. *Pipiza fasciata* Meigen, 1822
5. *Pipiza festiva* Meigen, 1822
6. *Pipiza laurusi* Vujić & Ståhls, in Vujić et al, 2013a
7. *Pipiza lugubris* Fabricius, 1775
8. *Pipiza luteibarba* Vujić, Radenković & Polić, 2008
9. *Pipiza luteitarsis* Zetterstedt, 1843
10. *Pipiza noctiluca* (Linnaeus, 1758)
11. *Pipiza notata* Meigen, 1822
12. *Pipiza quadrimaculata* (Panzer, 1802)

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, Ståhls G, Ačanski J, Bartsch H, Bygebjerg R., Stefanović A. 2013. Systematics of Pipizini and taxonomy of European *Pipiza* Fallen: molecular and morphological evidence (Diptera, Syrphidae). *Zoologica Scripta* 42 (3): 288-305.

Attributions

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