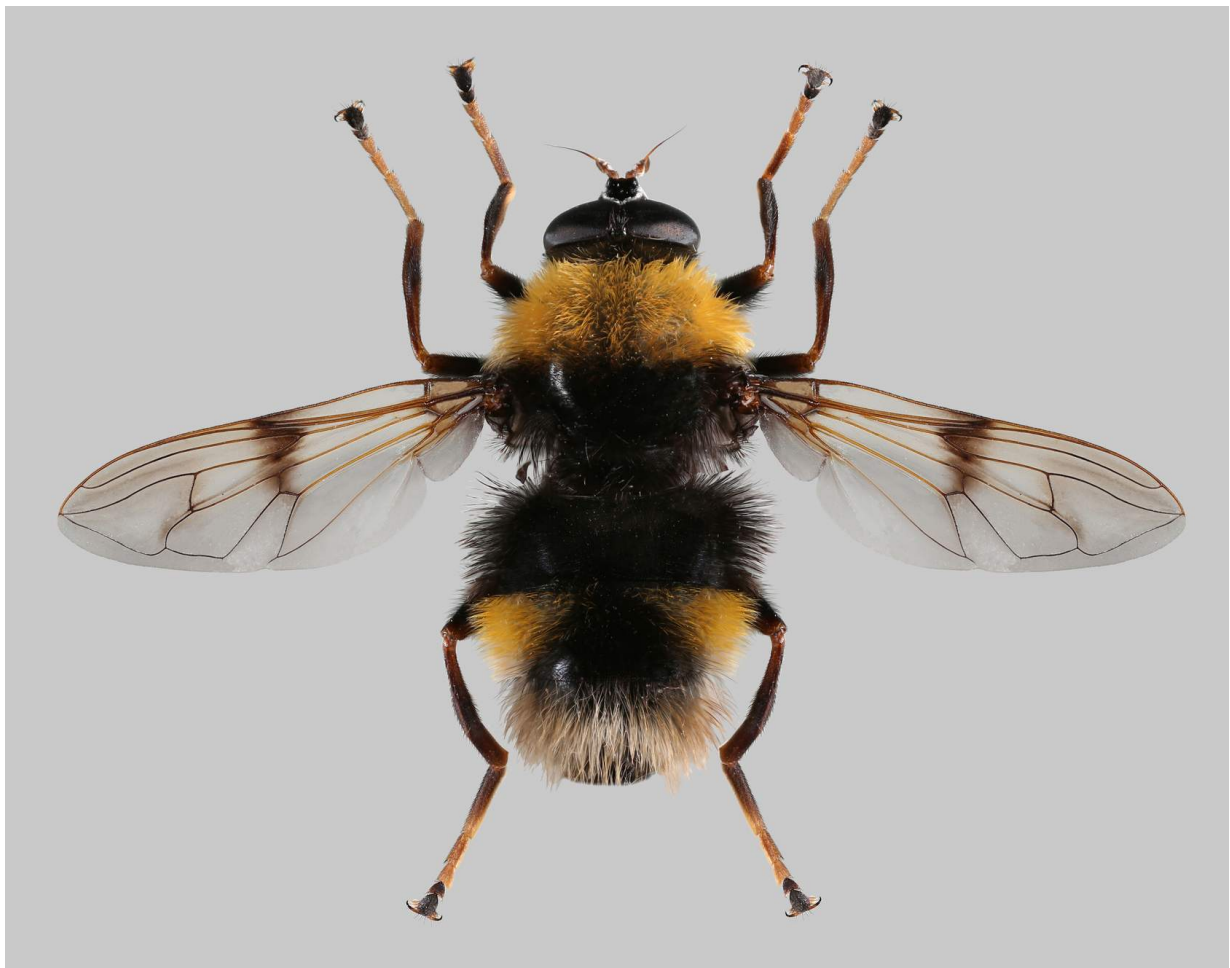




Genus: *Pocota*



Pocota personata male

Genus: *Pocota* Le Peletier & Audinet-Serville, 1828

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Milesiini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 1

Description

Head

The head is a relatively small and is narrower than the thorax. The face is concave below the antennal insertion, without a facial tubercle, and with the oral margin slightly protruded. The head is broadly holoptic and the eye is bare. The basoflagellomere has a dorsal arista that is bare.

Thorax

The pleuron, scutum and scutellum have erect long hairs. The metasternum is bare.

Wings

The wing is hyaline, sometimes with apical areas yellow-tinged and a medial triangular black area, from cell c to crossvein m-cu across the pterostigma. The crossvein r-m is located beyond the middle of the cell dm. Vein R_{4+5} is straight and merges with vein M_1 to form a petiole that is shorter than the crossvein h. The alula is microtrichose and broad, broader than the cell bm.

Legs

The legs are not modified.

Abdomen

The abdomen is broad, black, with long pilosity (bumblebee mimicking).

General comments on identification to species level

Pocota is a convincing bumblebee mimic with cross-bands of black, white and yellow hairs. Its thorax and abdomen are covered with long hairs and the scutum has long yellow to reddish hairs on anterior half, and with long black hairs on posterior half. It has a relatively small head, narrower than the thorax and the wing has a conspicuous dark area that includes the pterostigma.

Pocota species have the hairy postpronotum clearly exposed. The eye is bare, and the bare arista is situated dorsally on basoflagellomere. The face is black-coloured and has no facial tubercle. Wing cell r_{4+5} is closed at wing margin and the last section of the wing vein R_{4+5} (i.e., the vein section apically to the junction with vein M_1) is shorter than crossvein h . Additionally, wing cell r_1 is opened to the wing margin and vein R_{4+5} is straight or nearly so.

Differential diagnosis

The genus *Pseudopocota* Mutin & Barkalov, 1995, which does not occur in Europe, looks very similar to *Pocota* and they can be only distinguished based on the characters of the male genitalia.

Geographical distribution and global diversity

The genus is Holarctic in distribution, with *Pocota bomboides* Hunter, 1897 found in the Western Nearctic, *Pocota personata* present in Europe, European parts of Russia and Transcaucasia, and a third species described from Iran, *P. hyrcanica* Gilasian & Hauser, 2017.

Presence in Europe


Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation - European Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Biology

Adult behaviour and flower preferences. *Pocota personata* is found in *Quercus* and *Fagus* forests with over-mature and senescent trees, but also utilizes suitable trees in a wider landscape setting, such as single old ash *Fraxinus* tree with a rot hole. Flowers visited include *Crataegus* sp., *Prunus* spp. and *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Reproduction and larval biology. The larvae are saprophagous and have been collected from rot-holes in deciduous trees. The larva of *Pocota personata* has been described, and may be distinguished from larvae of related genera by the keys in Rotheray (1994).

Seasonal life cycle. *Pocota personata* overwinters as a larva. The flight period of the adult is from mid April to beginning of July.

 **Type species:** *Milesia apicata* Meigen, 1822 [junior synonym of *Musca personata* Harris, 1780]

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Pocota personata* (Harris, 1780)

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Attributions

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