



Pollinator Academy

Genus: *Syritta*



Syritta pipiens male habitus (© Sander Bot, licensed to the EU under CC-BY-NC 4.0)

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

Family: Syrphidae

Subfamily: Eristalinae

Tribe: Milesiini

Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 3



Syritta flaviventris male habitus (© Sander Bot, licensed to the EU under CC-BY-NC 4.0)

Description

Head

The head is almost hemispherical, and holoptic in males. The face is almost vertical without a facial tubercle, carinate (with a medial keel), and almost entirely dusted. The eyes are bare.

Thorax

The scutum is densely dusted laterally (postpronotum and notopleuron), as well as on the pleuron. The metasternum has hairs.

Wings

It is hyaline, without large infuscated areas. The wing vein R_{4+5} is almost straight, the cell r_{4+5} is closed before apex 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 longer than crossvein h and usually longer than crossvein r-m. The wing cell r_1 is open to the wing margin. The vena spuria is absent in some species, or can be much thinner than the other wing veins in others.

Legs

The hind leg femur is bulging and extremely thickened, with modifications and strong setae on the apical part.

Abdomen

The abdomen is elongate and in males is slightly narrowed between tergites 2 and 3.

General comments on identification to species level

Syritta are small elongate flies with the hind leg femora greatly enlarged, and the pleuron and notopleuron densely dusted.

Syritta species have the postpronotum with hairs clearly exposed, bare eyes and a dorsal bare arista. The face is carinate (with a medial keel) and almost entirely dusted. The wing cell r_{4+5} is closed before apex 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 longer than crossvein h and usually longer than crossvein r-m; additionally, the wing cell r_1 is opened to the wing margin.

The genus *Tropidia* may look similar to *Syritta* as both have a carinate face, but *Tropidia* species have a large apicoventral plate on the hind leg femur, which *Syritta* species do not have (Fig.). Moreover, in *Tropidia* the wing cell r_{4+5} is closed at the wing margin, which means that the last section of the wing vein R_{4+5} is shorter than crossvein h .



Syritta flaviventris male hind femur



Syritta pipiens head male



Syrirta pipiens head

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Geographical distribution and global diversity

The genus is cosmopolitan, with the largest number of species in the Afrotropical Region. Three species occur in Europe.

Presence in Europe

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

Biology

Known larvae are saprophagous in decaying plant materials.

i **Type species:** *Musca pipiens* Linnaeus, 1758

Common names:

FIN - pikkupuuharit

NOR - kompostblomsterfluer

SWE - kompostblomflugor

List of species found in Europe:

1. *Syrirta flaviventris* Macquart, 1842

2. *Syrirta pipiens* (Linnaeus, 1758)

3. *Syrirta vittata* Portschinsky, 1875
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References

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Attributions

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Authors

Photographs: Sander Bot (Taxo-Fly team)

Text: Ximo Mengual (Taxo-Fly team)

Reviewer: Francis Gilbert (Taxo-Fly team)

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