



Pollinator Academy

## Genus: *Tropidia*



*Tropidia fasciata* male (© Sander Bot)

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**Genus:** *Tropidia* Meigen, 1822

**Family:** Syrphidae

**Subfamily:** Eristalinae

**Tribe:** Milesiini

**Number of species of this genus found in Europe: 2**



*Tropidia scita* male (© Sander Bot)

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## Description

### Head

The head is holoptic in males. The face is almost vertical without a facial tubercle, carinate (with a medial keel), and densely dusted. The eyes are bare and males have enlarged frontal ommatidia.

### Thorax

The pleuron is densely dusted. The metasternum is haired.

## Wings

The wing is hyaline, without infuscated areas. The wing vein  $R_{4+5}$  is slightly looped into cell  $r_{4+5}$ . The cell  $r_{4+5}$  is closed at the 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 much shorter than crossvein  $h$ . The wing cell  $r_1$  is open to the wing margin.

## Legs

The hind leg femur is bulging, extremely thickened, with a large apicoventral plate.

## Abdomen

The abdomen is elongate and males have sternite 4 bent ventrally.

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# General comments on identification to species level

*Tropidia* are medium-sized elongate flies with conspicuous orange spots on the abdomen. They have a carinate face and the hind leg femora are greatly enlarged having a large apicoventral plate.

They may look similar to *Syritta* Le Peletier & Audinet-Serville, 1828 with a carinate face and incrassate hind leg femur, but species of *Tropidia* have a large apicoventral plate on the hind leg femur. *Syritta* species do not have such an apicoventral plate. 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  $h$ . In *Syritta* the cell  $r_{4+5}$  is closed before the wing margin.

Because of this apicoventral plate and the enlarged hind leg femur, *Tropidia* may be confused with *Merodon* Meigen, 1803, but *Merodon* has hairy eyes (bare eyes in *Tropidia*) and the face is slightly concave without a medial keel.



*Tropidia scita* male hind femur



*Tropidia fasciata* female hind femur



*Tropidia fasciata* male head

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## Geographical distribution and global diversity

This genus has two species in Europe, with additional representatives in the Nearctic, Neotropical and Afrotropical Regions.

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### Biology

The genus is found in all kinds of wetland habitats. The larvae are supposed to be saprophagous.



**Type species:** *Eristalis milesiformis* Fallén, 1817

**Common names:**

NOR - ildblomsterfluer

SWE -eldblomflugor

## List of species found in Europe:

1. *Tropidia fasciata* Meigen, 1822
2. *Tropidia scita* (Harris, 1780)

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## References

Hippa, H. (1978) Classification of Xylotini (Diptera, Syrphidae). *Acta Zoologica Fennica* 156, 1–153.

Speight, M. C. D. & Sarthou, J.-P. (2017) *StN keys for the identification of the European species of various genera of Syrphidae*. Syrph the Net, the database of European Syrphidae (Diptera), Vol. 99. Dublin: Syrph the Net publications, 139 p.

Speight, M.C.D. (2020) *Species accounts of European Syrphidae*. Vol. 104. M. C. D. Speight, E. Castella, J.-P. Sarthou, and C. Vanappelghem (Eds). Syrph the Net publications, Dublin, 314 p.

## Attributions

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### Authors

Photographs: Sander Bot (Taxo-Fly team)

Text: Ximo Mengual (Taxo-Fly team)

Reviewer: Gerard Pennards (Taxo-Fly team)

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