
Leucorum vernum, an alternative larval host plant for *Merodon analis* in East part of France

Dominique Langlois*^{†1}

¹Dominique Langlois – independent entomologist – France

Abstract

Information on the distribution, recognition and biology of *Merodon analis* Meigen, 1822 in France is reviewed, in the light of 2020 advances in knowledge of the *Merodon constans* group in Europe. *Merodon analis* is known to develop as a larva in bulbs of the indigenous snowdrop, *Gallanthus nivalis* L., 1753. An investigation carried out in Doubs (25), during the first quarter of 2021, demonstrates that *Leucojum vernum* L., 1753 is an alternative larval host plant, explaining the presence of *Merodon analis* in eastern parts of France where *Gallanthus nivalis* is virtually absent. Examination of the terminalia of males reared during course of this study repeatedly raised questions concerning the presence of *Merodon constans* (Rossi, 1794) in France, a species reported in Europe from Greece to Italy but not west of the Alps, and currently indistinguishable genetically from *M. analis*.

Keywords: *Merodon analis*, *Merodon constans*, France, *Leucorum vernum*

*Speaker

[†]Corresponding author: dl.entomo@gmx.com