
The North African hoverflies of the genus *Xanthogramma* Schiner, 1861 (Diptera: Syrphidae): a new species uncovered

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Abstract

The hoverfly fauna of North Africa, understood as the territory comprised from Egypt on east to Morocco on west and bordered in the south by the Sahara Desert, is poorly and unevenly known. The genus *Xanthogramma* Schiner, 1861 (Syrphinae: Syrphini) is represented in this region by a few records of four species, *Xanthogramma dives* (Rondani, 1857), *Xanthogramma evanescens* Becker & Stein, 1913 (endemic to North Africa), *Xanthogramma marginale* (Loew, 1854) and *Xanthogramma pedissequum* (Harris, 1776). After examination of old *Xanthogramma* material collected in Tanger, Morocco (=type locality of *X. evanescens*) from the ‘Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid (MNCN)’, specimens with distinctive morphology were spotted and found to be different from a syntype of *X. evanescens*. Consequently, we revised all the material of *Xanthogramma* from North Africa available to us, characterised a new species from Morocco, proposed a lectotype for *X. evanescens*, and provided an identification key to the North African species of this genus. The new species differs from *X. evanescens* in characters such as the facial width, colouration of proepimeron and katapisternum, length of mesonotum pile and wing microtrichia. We would like to thank Mercedes París García (MNCN), Sven Marotzke (‘Museum für Naturkunde’, Berlin, Germany), Sihem Djellab (‘Université Larbi Tebessi’, Algeria), Gunnilla Ståhl (Finnish Museum of Natural History) and Martin Ebejer (National Museum of Wales, UK) for arranging the loan of specimens, and the ‘Vicerrectorado de Investigación y Transferencia del Conocimiento’, for funding Antonio Ricarte’s position at the University of Alicante (UATALENTO17-08).

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