

## Acroceridae

Raphael Weniger (1998 Checklist: Medeea Weinberg & Gerhard Bächli)

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**Diagnosis:** Unique in appearance, due to a small head placed almost beneath a hump-backed thorax, large ear shaped lower calypter and a large abdomen. Very variable in size and colouration, even within species, and a strong sexual dimorphism is common. Body size ranges from 2.5-20 mm. Head is largely occupied by the eyes, holoptic in both sexes. Wings can be clear or clouded, venation variable, some veins occasionally weak or indistinct. Legs are simple, the empodium pulvilliform.

**Biology:** The larvae are endoparasitoids in true spiders (Aranea), usually one individual per host, rarely two or more. Eggs are produced in large numbers, positioned by the female on twigs or branches. First-instar larvae actively seek for their host, capable of a free-living period over considerable time without feeding. Spider remains uninfluenced until just prior to the end of the fourth instar. At the end of this stage, the spider's opisthosoma is largely eaten, and the larvae pupate outside of the host, often in the web of the host. In common species there is no fixed host-parasitoid relationship at species level. In general, specimens are rarely collected, but might gather in great numbers. Hilltopping has been observed in males.

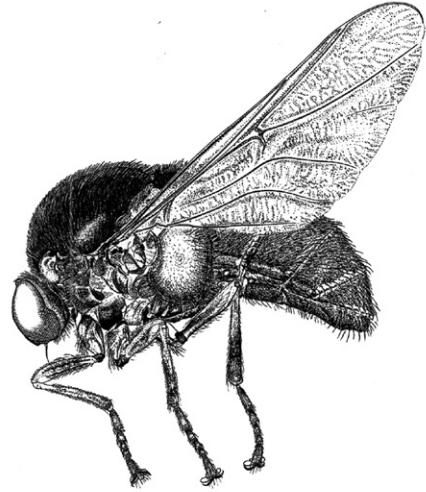
**Nomenclature and classification:** According to Fauna Europaea (Nartshuk 2013). Taxonomic status of some species, especially within the genus *Ogcodes*, need to be verified.

**Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland:** Poor, only scattered records

**Number of species:** CH: 7 (1998 Checklist: 8),  
BE 4, CZ/SK: 7, DE: 8, ES: 17, GB: 3, IT: 13, NL: 6, SK: 6.

**General references:** Chvála (1980) [key to European *Ogcodes*], de Jong et al. (2000) [The Netherlands], Kehlmaier (2024) [Germany], Nartshuk (1989) [key to species of Eastern Europe], Nartshuk (1997) [key to European genera], Schlinger (1960) [*Ogcodes*], Weinberg & Bächli (1997) [key to species of Switzerland].

**References to the Swiss fauna:** Weinberg & Bächli (1984, 1996, 1998).



*Ogcodes varius*,  
male, not present in Switzerland (CMPD2, p.473).

## Checklist

*Acrocera* Meigen, 1803 N1  
(*Acrocera* s.str.)

- *orbicula* (Fabricius, 1787) !

(*Acrocerina* Gil Collado, 1929)

- *sanguinea* Meigen, 1804 !

= *trigramma* Loew, 1845

- *stelviana* Pokorny, 1886 !

*Ogcodes* Latreille, 1796

- *fumatus* (Erichson, 1864) ! [1]

- *gibbosus* (Linnaeus, 1758) !

- *pallipes* Latreille, 1812 !

- *zonatus* Erichson, 1840 ! N2

## Excluded species

*Ogcodes nigripes* (Zetterstedt, 1838) N2

## Notes

N1 *Paracrocera* is regarded as a synonym of *Acrocera* (Nartshuk 2000).

N2 If there is a separate taxon *Ogcodes nigripes*, it is most likely endemic to northern Finland. *O. nigripes* from Switzerland, as mentioned by Schlinger (1960) and as observed by me, are most likely dark coloured *O. zonatus*, which happen to occur in the Alps, but differ from the potential *O. nigripes* specimens from northern Finland.

## Species records

[1] TI, Gordola, 2001, leg. Bernhard Merz (MHNG)

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