

Anisopodidae (incl. Mycetobiinae)

Jean-Paul Haenni & Peter J. Chandler (1998 Checklist: Jean-Paul Haenni [Anisopodidae], Peter J. Chandler [Mycetobiidae])

Last update: Jul 2024

Diagnosis: Medium sized (4-10 mm) nematocerous flies with slender body and legs. Head with antennae longer than head, tapering to apex, flagellum 14-segmented, 3 ocelli, palpi long, 4-5 segmented. Thorax convex, without distinct suture. Wing either with discal cell present, generally with a pattern of dark markings in *Sylvicola*, or discal cell absent, base of M vestigial, membrane without markings in Mycetobiinae. Legs with tibial spurs present, but devoid of strong spines. Abdomen elongate, parallel-sided, with genitalia of males usually visible externally. In both sexes, identification requires examination of genital characters. The systematic position of *Mycetobia* and allied genera has long been disputed and Mycetobiinae are frequently treated as a separate family Mycetobiidae, as it was also the case in the 1998 Checklist.

Biology: Adults of *Sylvicola* are frequent in forests and semi-wooded habitats; some species are widespread and can also be found almost all year long in parks, gardens, etc., including indoors on windows. Mycetobiinae midges are rare inhabitants of wooded areas. Saprophagous larvae of *Sylvicola* species develop in all kinds of decaying or fermenting vegetal tissues, mushrooms, manure, stems of umbelliferous plants, while those of Mycetobiinae are associated with wet dead wood, tree holes and sap runs.

Nomenclature and classification: Based on Fauna Europaea (de Jong 2013, Chandler 2005). Family Mycetobiidae of former checklist included, according to Michelsen (1999) and Hancock (2017).

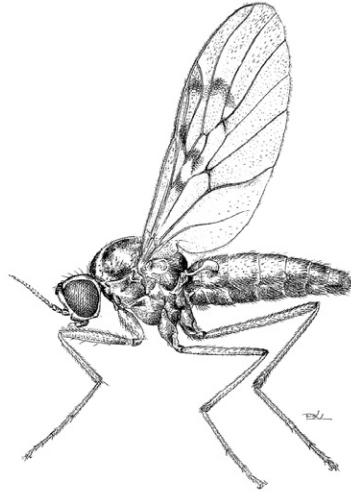
Number of species: CH: 11 (1998 Checklist: 11 [7+4]),
BE: 7, CZ: 9, DE: 8, FR: 6, GB: 8, HU: 7, IT: 8, NL: 7, SK: 9, Europe: 14, World: ~120.

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Very good; one additional species of *Sylvicola* might possibly be found in Switzerland.

General references: Chandler (2005) [Mycetobiinae, Fauna Europaea], Michelsen (1999) [general, taxonomy], Haenni (1997) [*Sylvicola*, key, Central European species], Hancock (2017) [general], Hancock et al. (1996) [Mycetobiinae, key, British species], de Jong (2013) [Anisopodinae, Fauna Europaea], Krivosheina (1986) [catalogue, Palaeartic species], Krivosheina (1997a, 1997b) [general, key to genera], Krivosheina & Menzel (1998) [*Sylvicola*, key, European species], Mamaev (1989) [Mycetobiinae, key, European species], Miller & Schacht (1995) [Mycetobiinae, key, Palaeartic species], Sølvi & Rindal (2014) [*Sylvicola*, key, Scandinavian species].

References to the Swiss fauna: Chandler (1998), Haenni (1997, 1998), Haenni & Merz (2012).

Sylvicola punctatus,
female (CMPD2, p. 241).



Checklist

Anisopodinae

Sylvicola Harris, 1776 N1

- *baechlii* Haenni, 1997 !
- *cinctus* (Fabricius, 1787) !
- *fenestralis* (Scopoli, 1763) !
- *fuscatus* Fabricius, 1775 ! N2
- = *subfuscatus* Krivosheina & Menzel, 1998
- *limpidus* (Edwards, 1923) !
- *punctatus* (Fabricius, 1787) !
- *zetterstedti* (Edwards, 1923) !

Mycetobiinae N3

Mycetobia Meigen, 1818

- *gemella* Mamaev, 1968 !
- *obscura* Mamaev, 1968 !
- *pallipes* Meigen, 1818 !

Trichomycetobia Mamaev, 1987

- *notabilis* (Mamaev, 1968) !

Notes

- N1 Old identifications and published data of *Sylvicola* species based mainly upon colouration characters are unreliable and must be discarded.
- N2 Michelsen (1999) demonstrated that the species of the *Sylvicola fuscatus*-group present in Central Europe is the true *S. fuscatus* in Fabricius' sense, with *S. subfuscatus* Krivosheina & Menzel, 1998 considered as a synonym.

- N3 There are no published records of subfamily Mycetobiinae from Switzerland. The above records are based on males, from the collections of Karin Schiegg (deposited in ETHZ) and CGB. Several females of the genus *Mycetobia* (ETHZ, MHNN) that have been examined have not yet been identified to species. Identification of females of the three Swiss species of *Mycetobia* is, however, possible from small internal differences in the genitalia figured by Hancock et al. (1996).

References

- Chandler P.J. 1998. 26. Mycetobiidae. In: Merz B., Bächli G., Haenni J.-P. & Gonseth Y. (eds). Diptera - Checklist. Fauna Helvetica 1: 147. CSCF / SEG, Neuchâtel, 369 pp.
- Chandler P.J. 2005. Fauna Europaea: Mycetobiidae. In: de Jong H. (ed). Fauna Europaea: Diptera Nematocera. Fauna Europaea version 1.2. <http://www.faunaeur.org/>.
- de Jong H. 2013. Fauna Europaea: Anisopodidae. In: Beuk P. & Pape T. (eds). Fauna Europaea: Diptera Nematocera. Fauna Europaea version 2.6. <http://www.faunaeur.org/>.
- Haenni J.-P. 1997. Anisopodidae (Diptera) de la faune de Suisse, avec la description d'une espèce nouvelle. Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologische Gesellschaft 70: 177-186.
- Haenni J.-P. 1998. 27. Anisopodidae. In: Merz B., Bächli G., Haenni J.-P. & Gonseth Y. (eds). Diptera - Checklist. Fauna Helvetica 1: 148. CSCF / SEG, Neuchâtel, 369 pp.
- Haenni J.-P. & Merz B. 2012. 8.36.8. Anisopodoidea. In: Merz B. (ed). Liste annotée des insectes (Insecta) du canton de Genève. Instrumenta Biodiversitatis 8: 350. Muséum d'histoire naturelle, Genève, 532 pp.
- Hancock E.G. 2017. Anisopodidae (Wood Gnats or Window Gnats). In: Kirk-Spriggs A.H. & Sinclair B.J. (eds). Manual of Afrotropical Diptera. Vol. 2, Nematocerous Diptera and lower Brachycera. Suricata 5: 633-640. Pretoria: SANBI Graphics & Editing, I-XII + 427-1361 pp.
- Hancock E.G., Robertson D.M. & MacGowan I. 1996. Saproxylic Diptera in Scotland 1. Additions to the British fauna of *Mycetobia* (Diptera, Mycetobiidae). Dipterists Digest 3: 32-35.
- Krivoshchina N.P. 1997a. 2.10. Family Anisopodidae. In: Papp L. & Darvas B. (eds). Contributions to a Manual of Palaearctic Diptera (with special reference to flies of economic importance). Vol. 2, Nematocera and Lower Brachycera: 239-248. Science Herald, Budapest, 592 pp.
- Krivoshchina N.P. 1997b. 2.11. Family Mycetobiidae. In: Papp L. & Darvas B. (eds). Contributions to a Manual of Palaearctic Diptera (with special reference to flies of economic importance). Vol. 2, Nematocera and Lower Brachycera: 249-254. Science Herald, Budapest, 592 pp.
- Krivoshchina N.P. & Menzel F. 1998. The Palaearctic species of *Sylvicola* Harris, 1776 (Diptera, Anisopodidae). Beiträge zur Entomologie 48(1): 201-217.
- Mamaev B.M. 1989. 23. Family Mycetobiidae. In: Bei-Bienko G.Y. (ed). Keys to the Insects of the European part of the USSR. Vol. 5, Diptera and Siphonaptera. Part I: 402-403. Brill, Leiden, New York, København, Köln.
- Michelsen V. 1999. Wood gnats of the genus *Sylvicola* (Diptera, Anisopodidae): taxonomic status, family assignment, and review of nominal species described by J.C. Fabricius. Tijdschrift voor Entomologie 142: 69-75.
- Miller C. & Schacht W. 1995. Zweiflügler aus Bayern VII (Diptera, Mycetobiidae). Entomofauna 16(21): 405-412.
- Søli G. & Rindal E. 2014. The genus *Sylvicola* Harris, 1780 (Diptera, Anisopodidae) in Norway – with a key to the North European species. Norwegian Journal of Entomology 61: 190-200