

## Asteiidae

Gerhard Bächli (1998 Checklist: Bernhard Merz)

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**Diagnosis:** Very small (1-3 mm), soft-bodied flies. Body in *Asteia* yellow and black, abdomen often yellow with delicate black pattern, body in *Leiomyza* dark. Head with few strong setae; vibrissae present; antennae small, third segment short and arista with several short dorsal and ventral rays. Wings without costal breaks;  $R_{4+5}$  and M convergent apically; in *Asteia* only cross vein r-m present, in *Leiomyza* only cross veins r-m and dm-cu; anal cell and anal vein absent. Abdomen usually weakly sclerotised. Larvae resembling those of Drosophilidae in general appearance but much smaller, larvae of *Asteia* more slender than those of *Leiomyza*.

**Biology:** Larvae are all presumed saprophagous. *Leiomyza* species have been found on and reared from numerous species of fungi. Mating takes place on the fungi. The immature stages of *Asteia* species have not yet been described. The adults are often found indoors on windows. Outdoors they are frequently swept from low vegetation.

**Nomenclature and classification:** According to Carles-Tolrá (2007).

**Number of species:** CH: 7 (1998 Checklist: 7),  
BE: 7, CZ: 8, DE: 6, IT: 2, NL: 6, UK: 4, Europe: 18, World: 130.

**Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland:** Good.

**General references:** Sabrosky (1956) [key], Chandler (1978) [key], Merz (1996) [key], Papp (1998), Gibbs & Papp (2007).

**References to the Swiss fauna:** Merz (1996, 1998).

## Checklist

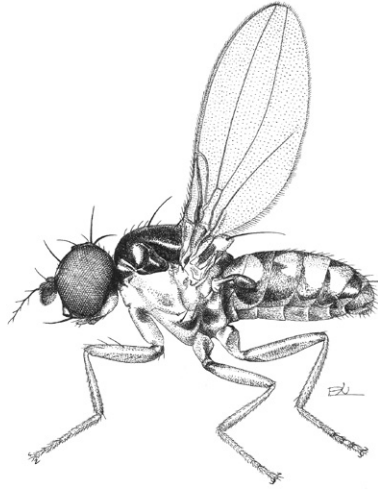
*Asteia* Meigen, 1830

(*Asteia* s.str.)

- *amoena* Meigen, 1830 !
- *concinna* Meigen, 1830 !
- *elegantula* Zetterstedt, 1847 !

*Leiomyza* Macquart, 1835

- *curvinervis* (Zetterstedt, 1838) !
- *dudai* Sabrosky, 1956 !
- *laevigata* (Meigen, 1830) !
- *scatophagina* (Fallén, 1823) !



*Asteia amoena*,  
male (CMPD3, p.295).

## References

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- Merz B. 1996. Die Asteiidae (Diptera) der Schweiz. *Revue Suisse de Zoologie* 103: 893-904.
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- Papp L. 1998. 3.25. Family Asteiidae. In: Papp L. & Darvas B. (eds). *Contributions to a Manual of Palaearctic Diptera (with special reference to flies of economic importance). Vol. 3, Higher Brachycera: 295-303. Science Herald, Budapest, 880 pp.*
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