

Diastatidae

Peter J. Chandler (1998 Checklist: Peter J. Chandler & Bernhard Merz)

Lasts update: Feb 2024

Diagnosis: Small (2.5-4 mm), dark coloured acalyptate flies with grey pruinosity, head partly yellow; antennae and legs largely yellow. Arista short to medium plumose; ocellar bristles present; a pair of crossing postocellar bristles; two pairs of vertical bristles, inner pair converging, outer diverging; two pairs of strong fronto-orbital bristles, the outer pair curving forward, the inner pair backward, with a short weak reclinate bristle between the latter and the vertical bristles; vibrissae present. Thorax with anepisternum setose. Wing with a row of stronger costal spines; variously patterned with dark markings, in some cases clear, but cell c always darkened; costa with both humeral and subcostal breaks, the latter close to the junction with R₁; vein Sc incomplete; crossvein bm-m present; cell cua closed. Tibiae with dorsal preapical bristle.

Biology: The larvae are unknown, but thought to be saprophagous because the adults may be numerous near litter, and among low vegetation, in all types of woodland and wetlands. The puparium of *Diastata costata* was described by Rotheray (2008), who figured the pupal habitus, prothoracic spiracles and the caudal end of the puparium.

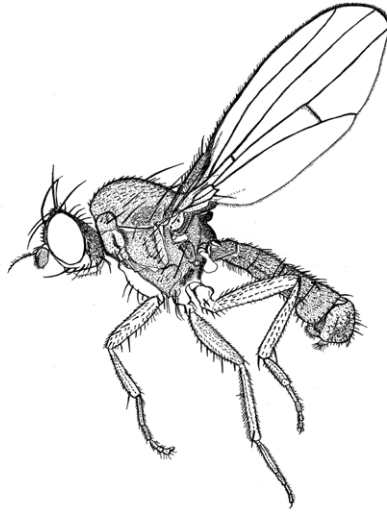
Nomenclature and classification: According to Chandler (1987), who recognised Diastatidae and Campichoetidae as separate families, but some other recent authors including Mathis & Barraclough (2011) have treated them as a single family Diastatidae.

Number of species: CH: 7 (1998 Checklist: 5),
AT: 4, BE: 4, CZ: 8, DE: 8, FR: 4, GB: 6, HU: 6, IT: 6, NL: 7, SK: 7, Europe: 9, World: 35.

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Good. There have been no changes to the checklist other than the two additions reported by Bächli et al. (2014). One other species *Diastata cervinala* Chandler, 1987 is known from Germany, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, so is probably present.

General references: Chandler (1987) [key to the Palearctic species], Chandler (1998) [general account], Mathis & Barraclough (2011) [world catalogue].

References to the Swiss fauna: Chandler & Merz (1998), Merz & Chandler (1998), Bächli et al. (2014).



Diastata fuscula,
male (CMPD3, p.524, as *D. ornata*).

Checklist

Diastata Meigen, 1830

- *adusta* Meigen, 1830 !
- *costata* Meigen, 1830 !
- *flavicosta* Chandler, 1987 !
- *fuscula* (Fallén, 1823) !
- *nebulosa* (Fallén, 1823) !
- *ornata* Meigen, 1830 !
- *vagans* (Loew, 1864) !

References

- Bächli G., Merz B. & Haenni J.-P. 2014. Dritter Nachtrag zur Checkliste der Diptera der Schweiz. Entomologia Helvetica 7: 119-140.
- Chandler P.J. 1987. The families Diastatidae and Campichoetidae (Diptera: Drosophiloidea) with a revision of Palaearctic and Nepalese species of *Diastata* Meigen. Entomologica Scandinavica 18:1-50.
- Chandler P.J. 1998. 3.47. Family Diastatidae. 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: 523-530. Science Herald, Budapest, 880 pp.
- Chandler P.J. & Merz B. 1998. 92. Diastatidae. In: Merz B., Bächli G., Haenni J.-P. & Gonseth Y. (eds). Diptera - Checklist. Fauna Helvetica 1: 302. CSCF / SEG, Neuchâtel, 369 pp.
- Mathis W.N. & Barraclough D.A. 2011. World catalog and conspectus on the family Diastatidae (Diptera: Schizophora). Myia 12: 235-266.
- Merz B. & Chandler P.J. 1998. Faunistic study of the Campichoetidae and Diastatidae from Switzerland (Diptera, Acalyptata). Studia Dipterologica 4(2): 495-498.
- Rotheray G.E. 2008. The puparium of *Diastata costata* Meigen (Diptera, Diastatidae). Dipterist's Digest (Second Series) 15: 1-4.