

Hippoboscidae

Jean-Paul Haenni (1998 Checklist: Willi Büttiker)

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Diagnosis: Small to medium sized (2.5-12 mm) calyptrate flies adapted to ectoparasitic life on vertebrates; body dorsoventrally flattened, with strong setosity; head more or less adpressed to thorax, eyes separated in both sexes, ocelli often well-developed, sometimes vestigial or absent, antennae short, highly modified, mouth-parts adapted for bloodsucking; wing usually fully developed, frequently reduced, shortened or narrowed, or totally absent or lost; venation simple and nearly complete or variously reduced, more or less concentrated on anterior region of wing; legs robust, moderately short, tarsal claws strong; abdomen weakly sclerotized. Identification is mainly based upon characteristics of wing venation and vestiture of wing membrane, thoracic structures and setosity.

Biology: Adults are obligate ectoparasites of birds (Ornithomyiinae) or mammals, both wild and domestic (Hippoboscinae and Lipopteninae); some species may occasionally also attack man. Host specificity narrow in some species while others may be found on a large number of varied hosts. Larval development takes place in the female uterus (one larva at a time); the mature larva (prepupa) is deposited in birds' nests, in the fur of mammal hosts, in sheltered places or on the ground, and it pupates shortly after laying.

Nomenclature and classification: According to Fauna Europaea (Petersen et al. 2013).

Number of species: CH: 17 (1998 Checklist: 15),
BE: 14, CZ: 16, DE: 12, GB: 14, IT: 18, NL: 12, SK: 16, Europe: 31, World: ~210.

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Very good.

General references: Büttiker (1994) [general, biology, Swiss distribution, literature], Hutson (1984) [keys, British species], Haenni (1994) [key, *Central European species*], Hutson (1984) [key, British species], Maa (1969) [World catalogue and host index], Oboňa et al. (2022) [key, European species], Soós & Hůrka (1986) [catalogue, Palaearctic species], Petersen et al. (2013) [Fauna Europaea database], Theodor & Oldroyd (1964) [keys, Palaearctic species]

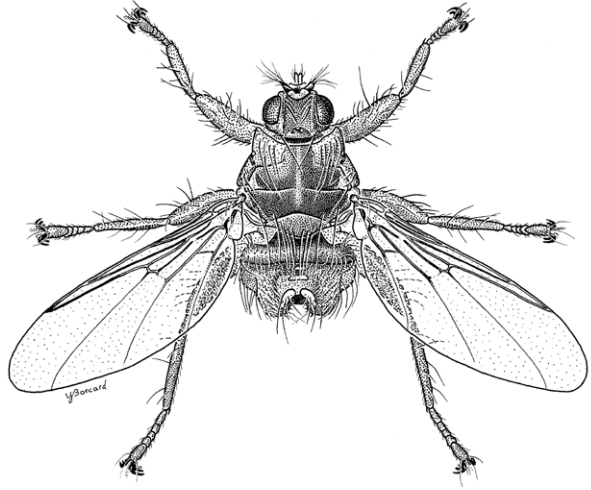
References to the Swiss fauna: Bächli et al. (2014), Büttiker (1994, 1998), Droz & Haenni (2011), Haenni (1994), Merz (2012), Merz et al. (2006).

Checklist

Crataerina Macquart, 1835

- *melbae* (Rondani, 1879) !

- *pallida* (Latreille, 1812) !



Ornithomya biloba,
female (Büttiker 1994, p. 47).

Hippobosca Linnaeus, 1758

- *equina* Linnaeus, 1758 ! N1

Icosta Speiser, 1905

- *ardeae* (Macquart, 1835) !

Lipoptena Nitzsch, 1818

- *cervi* (Linnaeus, 1758) !
- *fortisetosa* Maa, 1965 !

Melophagus Latreille, 1802

- *ovinus* (Linnaeus, 1758) ! N2
- *rupicaprinus* Rondani, 1879 !

Ornithoica Rondani, 1878

- *turdi* (Latreille, 1812) ! N3

Ornithomya Latreille, 1802

- *avicularia* (Linnaeus, 1758) !
- *biloba* (Dufour, 1827) !
- *chloropus* Bergroth, 1901 !
- *fringillina* Curtis, 1863 !
- *rupes* Hutson, 1981 !

Ornithophila Rondani, 1879

- *metallica* (Schiner, 1864) !

Pseudolynchia Bequaert, 1926

- *canariensis* (Macquart, 1840) L N4

Stenopteryx Leach, 1817

- *hirundinis* (Linnaeus, 1758) !

Notes

- N1 *Hippobosca equina* was last recorded from Switzerland in 1966 (Büttiker 1994). It is probably very rare nowadays, or possibly extinct, due to intensification of pest control of the host (domestic horse).
- N2 *Melophagus ovinus* was last recorded from Switzerland in 1968 (Büttiker 1994). It is probably very rare nowadays, or possibly extinct, due to intensification of pest control of the host (domestic sheep).
- N3 *Ornithoica turdi*: only one recent record known from a vagrant bird (Droz & Haenni 2011), status of the species in Switzerland still dubious.
- N4 *Pseudolynchia canariensis*: only one recent record known (Merz 2012), status of the species in Switzerland still dubious.

References

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