

Ptychopteridae

Christophe Dufour (1998 Checklist: Christophe Dufour)

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Diagnosis: Flies of moderate size and tipuloid appearance, with the halteres provided with a distinct basal appendage, the prehalter. In Europe, the family is represented by a single genus, *Ptychoptera* Meigen, 1803, which is characterised by its shining black body colour and the wings often with distinct markings. The venation is characteristic and has an additional longitudinal fold crossing r-m (much as the vena spuria in Syrphidae) and another one extending from A₁ to the bend of Cu. (After Starý 2009).

Biology: The larvae are aquatic or semiaquatic, inhabiting saturated mud and feeding on decaying vegetable matter. The adults frequent the muddy banks of streams and pools, marshes of various types, and similar habitats. (After Starý 2009). Adults are normally active during the middle of the day, especially in sunny conditions. The shining black, or black with orange and yellow markings, is standard warning colouration for an insect that is nasty to eat or which stings. The deception is very convincing in its flight, resembling a solitary or ichneumon wasp. (After Stubbs 2021).

Nomenclature and classification: According to Zwick (2017).

Number of species: CH: 6 (1998 Checklist: 6),
AT: 6, BE: 7 CZ: 9, DE: 8, FR: 7, GB: 7, IT: 4, NL: 7, Europe: 18, World: 90.
(Dvořák et al. 2023, Rozkošný 1992, Wagner et al. 2008).

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Rather good. Two additional species can be expected.

General references: Andersson (1997), Krzemiński (1986), Krzemiński & Zwick (1993), Peeters & Oosterbroek (2015), Peus (1958), Rozkošný (1992), Starý (2009), Stubbs (1993, 2021), Tillier (2015), Tillier & Quindroit (2017), Wagner et al. (2008), Zwick (2017), Zwick & Starý (2003).

References to the Swiss fauna: Bangerter (1932), Dufour (1998)



Ptychoptera albimana,
male (CMPD2, p.291).

Checklist

Ptychoptera Meigen, 1803

(*Parapteroptera* Tonnoir, 1919)

- *lacustris* Meigen, 1830 !
- *longicauda* Tonnoir, 1919 !
- *paludosa* Meigen, 1804 !

(*Ptychoptera* s.str.)

- *albimana* (Fabricius, 1787) !
- *contaminata* (Linnaeus, 1758) !
- *scutellaris* Meigen, 1818 !

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