

Vermileonidae

Jean-Paul Haenni (1998 Checklist: Jean-Paul Haenni)

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Diagnosis: Medium to large (6-12 mm), slender brachycerous flies, more or less variegated dark and yellow in European species. Eyes broadly separated in both sexes; ocelli present. Antennae with first flagellomere bearing an apical style. Proboscis fleshy and short in *Vermileo*, sclerotised and elongate, curved in *Lampromyia*. Wings elongate, narrow; alula absent; R_5 reaching wing margin well beyond tip of wing; 5 posterior cells. Legs elongate, particularly the hind pair; tibiae with apical spurs. Abdomen long, somewhat petiolate.

Biology: Larvae (ant-worms) are predatory, constructing pitfall traps in sandy or dusty soil; they feed upon ants and other small insects fallen in the trap, a way of life much similar to that of the well-known larvae of ant-lions (Neuroptera). Pits may be found in great number in favourable, sheltered places. Larval development lasts one year. On the contrary, adults are elusive flies that are not frequently observed, even in the vicinity of sites of larval development.

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

Number of species: CH: 1 (1998 Checklist: 1),
AT: 1, FR: 2, IT: 2, Europe: 9, World: 64.

Level of faunistic knowledge in Switzerland: Good.

General references: Bueno et al. (2021) [world catalogue], Nagatomi (1997) [general, key to genera], Beuk et al. (2013) [Fauna Europaea], Stuckenberg (1966, 1998) [keys to European species].

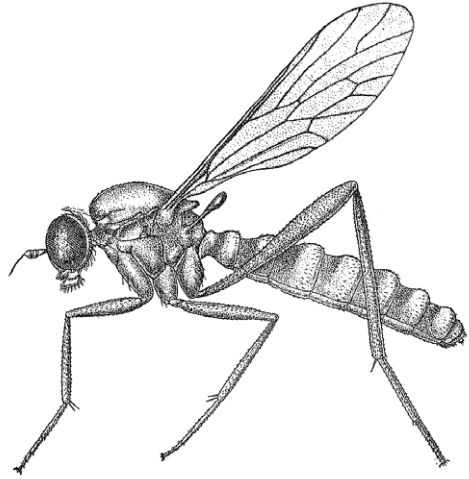
References to the Swiss fauna: Haenni (1998), Marchesi et al. (2005), Merz (2012), Schenk (1958), Schoch (1889), Sierro & Keim (1999).

Checklist

Vermileo Macquart, 1834

- *vermileo* (Linnaeus, 1758) !

= *degeeri* Macquart, 1834



Vermileo comstocki,
female, not present in Switzerland
(CMPD2, p.448).

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