

REVISION OF THE TWO-WINGED FLIES OF THE GENUS COELOPA MEIGEN IN NORTH AMERICA

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The present revision has been prepared as the result of recent correspondence with Mr. J. E. Collin, of Newmarket, England, who has furnished information relating to synonymy and has also supplied the Museum with determined European specimens; from his data and the specimens it appears that the North American members of the genus have been misidentified to a large extent. Two species from the Bering Sea region, formerly considered to be identical with European forms, are here described as new.

All the species appear to breed in the kelps, and are found only on seashores where seaweeds of this group are washed up. This limits the distribution of the flies on the Atlantic side to the northern coast, with Rhode Island as the southern terminus, but on the Pacific the kelps extend much farther south, so that one species of the fly is common at least as far south as San Diego, Calif.

Genus COELOPA Meigen

Coelopa MEIGEN, Syst. Besch., vol. 6, 1830, p. 8.—HALIDAY, Ann. Nat. Hist., vol. 2, 1839, p. 186.—WESTWOOD, Introd. Mod. Classif. Ins., vol. 2, Synops., 1840, p. 144.—STENHAMMAR, Skandinavien's Copromyzinae (Kongl. Vetensk. Akad. Handl.) 1853 (1855), p. 317.—LOEW, Mon. N. Amer. Dipt., vol. 1, 1862, p. 42.—SCHINER, Fauna Austriaca, Diptera, vol. 2, 1864, p. 319.—COLE and LOVETT, List Dipt. of Oregon (Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., ser. 4, vol. 11) 1921, p. 320.—WILLISTON, Manual N. Amer. Dipt., ed. 3d., 1908, p. 317.—MALLOCH, N. Amer. Fauna No. 46, 1923, p. 214, keys to species.
Fucomyia HALIDAY, Ann. Nat. Hist., vol. 2, 1839, p. 186.—WESTWOOD, Introd. Mod. Classif. Ins., vol. 2, Synops., 1840, p. 144.

The genotypes of *Coelopa* and *Fucomyia* have been remarkably confused, owing to the misidentification of *Musca frigida* Fabricius. This was the only species included in *Coelopa* by Meigen in 1830, but Haliday in 1839 recognized that it was not the true *frigida* of Fabricius, and gave the name *pilipes* to Meigen's species, which thus attains the status of genotype and has been so accepted by Mr. Collin, although the matter has not been discussed in print.

Fucomyia had originally three species—the first was what Haliday thought to be the true *frigida* of Fabricius, which he distinguished from the *frigida* of Meigen; of the former he makes his own *gravis* 1833 a synonym. The other two species included are *simplex* and *parvula*, both new. Westwood (1840, p. 144) makes *frigida* Fabricius the genotype of *Fucomyia*. But here, again, is a misidentification of *frigida*, which is not a *Coelopa* at all, but probably a *Scatophaga* (Stenhammar, Copyromyz., 1855, p. 269). Haliday's supposed *frigida* Fabricius is disposed of by adopting *gravis* Haliday, 1833 for it, since Haliday himself indicated the synonymy. Thus *gravis* Haliday becomes the genotype of *Fucomyia*. The question is not of prime importance, since *Fucomyia* is undoubtedly a synonym of *Coelopa*. *Fucomyia* has bristly legs, while in *Coelopa* they are pilose; but this applies only to males, and is best developed in the large males, smaller ones showing much less difference, and females showing hardly a specific difference, much less a generic one.

The genus *Coelopa* is the main component of the small acalyptrate family Coelopidae, which is distinguished by the following characters in Hendel's recent key to the families of Diptera.¹

Body depressed, postverticals well developed, convergent or crossed; prelabrum protruding; tibiae with preapical bristle on dorsal side, but with apicals only on ventral side; scutellum with a pair of erect, crossed apical bristles, curving forward; auxiliary vein complete, costa not broken or interrupted at tip of auxiliary or before it.

In *Coelopa* the face in profile is very deeply hollowed; the sides of the epistoma are bulging; the anal vein reaches the margin, but only as a fold. The mesonotum is strikingly flattened, with no bristles of considerable size except a single humeral, two notopleurals and one postalar—of these the single, large erect humeral is most distinctive. The antennae are rather small, the third joint rounded, with bare arista.

No other genus of the family occurs in North America; in our literature *Omomyia* Coquillett has been referred here, but it appears to show more affinity to the Scatophagidae.

All of the species vary greatly in size; specimens of *vanduzeci*, which are all recognizable by the hairs on the apical portion of the first vein, vary from three to seven millimeters in length. In all cases the larger are more spinose or pilose, the striking vestiture being reduced with the size until it becomes inconspicuous. On this account I have given up *parvula* as a name for our smaller New England specimens, without attempting to decide whether there is a

¹ Tierwelt Deutschlands, Jena, 1928, part 11, section 2, pp. 86-89.

valid European species to which the name may be applied. Mr. Collin, however, says that *gravis* and *parvula* always occur together, which casts doubt upon the validity of the latter.

I have omitted *Coelopa anomala* Cole², from Lower California, which is said to have a convex thorax instead of the flattened one which is so characteristic in the genus, and probably does not belong here. At any rate the form of the thorax will separate it.

KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF COELOPA

MALES

1. First vein with a few hairs on apical part; middle tibiae pilose, the others spiny (California, Oregon)-----*vanduzeei* Cresson.
First vein entirely bare-----2.
2. All femora and tibiae with dense, long soft pile, like that of middle basitarsus, not at all bristly (Bering Sea)-----*stejnegeri*, new species.
All femora and tibiae spiny in the larger specimens, bristly in the smaller, but in all cases the pile of the middle basitarsus is evidently much softer and more delicate than this-----3.
3. Abdomen with spiny bristles not only on sides and hind margin but scattered over the disk of the last three segments (Bering Sea region).
nebularum, new species.
Abdomen with spiny bristles only on hind margin and sparsely on sides (North Atlantic Coast)-----*gravis* Haliday.

FEMALES

1. First vein with a few hairs on apical part (California and Oregon).
vanduzeei Cresson.
First vein entirely bare-----2.
2. Legs usually blackish (North Pacific Coast)-----3.
Legs reddish yellow (North Atlantic Coast)-----*gravis* Haliday.
3. Cheek with dense, soft, rather short hair; arista minutely setulose under high power-----*stejnegeri*, new species.
Cheek with sparser hair, which is somewhat bristly above; arista not minutely setulose-----*nebularum*, new species.

COELOPA GRAVIS Haliday

Coelopa gravis HALIDAY, Entomological Magazine, vol. 1, 1833, p. 167.
Coelopa frigida OSTEN SACKEN, Catalogue N. A. Dipt., 1878, p. 197 (not of Fabricius).—HAGEN, Canad. Ent., vol. 17, 1885, p. 140.—JOHNSON, List Dipt. New Eng., 1925, p. 248; Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., vol. 38, 1925, p. 95.
Coelopa eximia STENHAMMAR, Copromyzinae, 1855, p. 318.
Coelopa nitidula OSTEN SACKEN, Catalogue N. A. Dipt., 1878, p. 197 (not of Stenhammer).
Coelopa parvula JOHNSON, List Dipt. New Eng., 1925, p. 248 (not of Haliday); Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H., vol. 38, 1925, p. 95.—STURTEVANT, Biol. Bull., vol. 50, p. 33.

I have examined 22 specimens from the New England coast—Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Johnson writes me, "They do not

² Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., vol. 12, 1923, p. 470.

seem to be found south of where the kelp grows. Narragansett Pier, R. I., is my most southern locality. I have seen the kelp a quivering mass of maggots and later an enormous swarm of flies." Length 3 to 6 mm., the smaller recorded as *parvula*. Seven specimens of both sexes from European seacoasts are also in the United States National Museum, determined by Collin, Bezzi, and Lundbeck, the two latter having identified it as *frigida* Fabricius.

Male.—Head and body black, the antennae, palpi, and proboscis reddish; a few reddish indistinct marks below wing on pleura; hind edges of last three segments and sides of last four yellowish red; abdomen flat, with a single row of bristles on each side and across the hind margin of each segment beyond the first or second (fewer in small specimens); front femora thickened and with stout spines, front tibiae spiny, but with some appressed pile on ventral side; front basitarsus with several stout, short erect spines below near base, the apex below with a thin, expanded rim or margin, wider on mesial side. Middle femora and tibiae spiny, the latter villous on flexor side and with several stout apical spines ventrally; middle basitarsus with long hair below and behind, and with about four stout spines curved downward on the front side. Hind femora and tibiae somewhat thickened, spiny, the latter with a few more delicate hairs on the flexor side; the yellow brush of cleaning hairs begins below the middle and extends the whole length of the first and second tarsal segments.

Female.—Abdominal segments less widely bordered with reddish yellow behind, but about the same on the sides. Front femora thickened, but with only a few stout bristles above.

COELOPA VANDUZEEI Cresson

Coelopa vanduzeei CRESSON, Ent. News, vol. 25, 1914, p. 457.—PETERSON, III.

Biol. Mon., vol. 3, 1916, No. 2, p. 182 (numerous morphological figures).

Coelopa frigida COLE, First Rept. Laguna Lab., 1912, p. 156 (det. by Aldrich, not of Fabricius).—COLE and LOVETT, List Dipt. of Oregon, 1921, p. 320.

Easily recognized by Cresson's description and by the hairs on the first vein; I place the Cole and Lovett Oregon specimens here from the excellent figure, although otherwise it is not known from that State.

I have before me 119 specimens from the California coast—San Diego (Aldrich), Laguna Beach (Cole), Santa Barbara (Blaisdell, Aldrich); Pacific Grove (Aldrich), Santa Cruz (Cole). Adults appear to occur throughout the year, as Doctor Blaisdell sent a large shipment which he collected on January 2, 1929, at Santa Barbara. Professor Hine also sent five specimens of both sexes, which he collected on Kodiak Island, Alaska, in September, 1919.

COELOPA NEBULARUM, new species

Coelopa frigida COQUILLET, Dipt. Commander Ids., 1899, p. 345 (not of Fallen, not of Fabricius); Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., vol. 2, 1900, p. 460.—MALLOCH, North American Fauna, No. 46, 1923, p. 214, pl. 12, fig. 1.

Coelopa nitidula COQUILLET, Proc. Wash. Acad. Sci., vol. 2, 1900, p. 460 (not of Stenhammar).

Coquillett reported the species from the Commander Islands and Kodiak Island, as *frigida*; and as I identify the specimens he also recorded a specimen from Kodiak Island as *nitidula*.

Male.—Differs from *gravis*, which is so widespread that it may well be used for comparison, principally by the character given in the key, the posterior part of the abdomen being much more bristly above and on the sides, and also less flattened.

Female.—The legs are almost invariably blackish, while in a dozen females of *gravis* they are uniformly reddish yellow.

Length, 3.5 to 6.2 mm.

Described from 15 males and 29 females, mostly from the Pribilof and Commander Islands in Bering Sea. From the former group, 19 of both sexes, including type and allotype, are from St. Paul Island (E. A. Preble, G. D. Hanna, A. G. Whitney), in 1914–1917; while 7 are from St. George Island (Hanna), June 6 and 14, 1914. From the Commander Islands (palaeartic), a male and two females (Stejneger) are from Bering Island, and a female (Barrett-Hamilton) is from Copper Island. One of the Stejneger females is from the early collecting in the eighties. A male and a female were collected by the Harriman Expedition (Kincaid) on Kodiak Island, in 1899, and a male from the same island (Hine) in 1917. Also two males and nine females from Katmai, Alaska, collected by Prof. J. S. Hine in 1917, and lent by him for study.

Type.—Male, Cat. No. 41859, U.S.N.M.

COELOPA STEJNEGERI, new species

Coelopa frigida COQUILLET, Dipt. Commander Ids., 1899, p. 345 (not of Fabricius).

Coelopa eximia MALLOCH, N. Amer. Fauna, No. 46, 1923, p. 213, pl. 14, fig. 25 (not of Stenhammar).

Coelopa parvula COLE, Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci., vol. 11, 1921, p. 174 (not of Haliday).

Coelopa nitidula COQUILLET, Dipt. Commander Ids., 1899, p. 345 (not of Haliday).

Coquillett reported the species from the Pribilof and Commander Islands as *frigida* and *nitidula*; Cole reported it from the former as *parvula*; and Malloch as *eximia*. The Commander Islands are in the palaeartic region, being on the western side of the North Pacific.

Male.—Black and rather shining; front opaque except the ocellar triangle and an upper border to the eye, all the opaque portion with erect hair of considerable length; the frontal bristles variable,

sometimes absent; cheeks with dense, long pile; arista with a few scattering minute setules under high power (35 diameters). Femora almost black, with long hair and no bristles; tibiae reddish to blackish, all with long pile, the middle ones with several apical spines on lower side, middle basitarsi also pilose, with several short, curved spines on front edge below; hind tibiae with long pile, below at tip with one longer and one shorter spine. The golden brush of hairs for cleaning are conspicuous on inner side of hind tibia on apical third, and on basitarsus. Abdomen shining black, with no bristles, but a good deal of black hair, especially posteriorly.

Female.—Pilose as in male, but the pile is shorter; front with some distinct frontals, but they seem variable; cheek with dense but rather short pile.

Length, 2.7 to 5.5 mm.

Described from nine males and eight females. The type and allotype are from St. Paul Island, Bering Sea, collected August 1, 1914, by E. A. Preble, and August 16, 1915, by G. D. Hanna. Another male and a female from the same island were collected by Hanna in 1915 and 1916, a male and female by A. G. Whitney in 1914, and another male by Preble in 1914; a male and a female from Bering Island, of the Commander group in Bering Sea (palaeartic), by Barrett-Hamilton and Dr. Leonhard Stejneger respectively, in 1897; a female from Pribilof Islands by Stejneger some years earlier, not dated; two females from Nikolaki, Bering Island, in 1895; a female from Skagway, Alaska, June 14, 1921 (Aldrich); and a male and female from Union Bay, Vancouver Island, April 26, 1916 (Hanna). Also a male and female from Katmai, Alaska, 1917, lent by Prof. James S. Hine and collected by him.

Type.—Male, Cat. No. 41860, U.S.N.M.

Named in honor of Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, of the United States National Museum, whose interest in the life of the Bering Sea islands has been continuous for nearly half a century.

This is the nearest of all our species to the European *pilipes* Haldy, type of the genus, which also has all the legs with long pile and not bristles. It however has the abdomen opaque, the dorsocentral bristles quite appreciably developed, and the front with distinct lateral bristles in the male and not so much pile. The thin expansion of the front basitarsus below its apex is less noticeable in *stejnegeri* than in *nebularum*, but in *pilipes* it is hardly perceptible at all. The female of *stejnegeri* can be distinguished from that of *pilipes* by its more shining abdomen. In making these comparisons I am using four European specimens of *pilipes* received from Mr. Collin and two from Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell.