



Research article

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The first species of *Trichopsomyia* Williston, 1888 (Diptera: Syrphidae) described from the Oriental region, with a discussion on the character states of the pilosity of the katepisternum

Jeroen van STEENIS^{1,*} & Nigel P. WYATT²

¹Research Associate Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden; c/o Hof der Toekomst 48,
3823 HX Amersfoort, the Netherlands.

²Department of Life Science, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road,
London SW7 5BD, United Kingdom.

*Corresponding author: jvansteen@syrrhidaeintrees.com

²Email: N.Wyatt@nhm.ac.uk

¹[urn:lsid:zoobank.org:author:C7F0D01C-B182-4B93-AF73-E4154367B535](https://zoobank.org/author:C7F0D01C-B182-4B93-AF73-E4154367B535)

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Abstract. The first Oriental species of the genus *Trichopsomyia* Williston, 1888, *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov. (Java), has been discovered and is now described. This Oriental species of *Trichopsomyia* has several characters strongly differing from the other species within this genus. It is hypothesized that it forms a separate group within *Trichopsomyia*. One species, *Trichopsomyia formiciphila* Downes, Skevington & Thompson, 2017, from Australia, is similar to the Oriental species described here, and the group is named after this first described species, hence the *formiciphila* group. The characters for a future phylogenetic analysis are discussed. The character states of the pilosity of the katepisternum and the shape of the metasternum hitherto used in a phylogenetic analysis of Syrphidae Latreille, 1802 are discussed too.

Keywords. *Trichopsomyia formiciphila* group, new species, Oriental region, character states of the metasternum and katepisternum.

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Introduction

Syrphidae Latreille, 1802 is a worldwide occurring dipterous family with several sub-families and species having very a different larval habitat and adult behaviour (Rotheray & Gilbert 2011). Many species are regarded as key pollinators of wild plants and crops, some are used for the natural control of aphids or as pulp decomposers while others are regarded as pests to bulbous plants (Bergh & Short 2008; Bugg *et al.* 2008; Ssymank & Kearns 2009; Morales & Wolff 2010). Within one genus, most species

show the same way of life, and this could help in finding larvae or adults and get to know more about their natural history (Rotheray & Gilbert 1999; Rojo *et al.* 2003).

The Oriental Syrphidae fauna is one of the least studied (e.g., Thompson & Skevington 2014), requiring more efforts as this part of the world is under great threat due to human influences and part of its syrphid fauna could already be lost (e.g., Hippa *et al.* 2015). The discovery of a new species of the genus *Trichopsomyia* Williston, 1888 for the Oriental region was the starting point of this research and this paper, with the hope to stimulate further research.

The genera, of which *Trichopsomyia* is one, grouped together with *Pipiza* Fallén, 1810, often classified as the tribe Pipizini Williston, 1885, are well defined with some unique morphological characters (Thompson 1972; Kuznetsov 1988, 1992; Rotheray & Gilbert 1989; Hippa & Ståhls 2005; Vujić *et al.* 2013; Mengual *et al.* 2015). The adults of species of pipizine are small to medium-sized hoverflies (5–10 mm) with a mainly black-coloured body, a flat face which is not produced forwards and a round oral cavity (Vujić *et al.* 2013).

Larvae of pipizine are predatory and show a preference for woolly or root aphids with waxy secretions or gall-forming hemipterans, for example, Aphididae Latreille, 1802, Psyllidae Latreille, 1807, Phylloxeridae Herrich-Schaeffer, 1854 and Adelgidae Schouteden, 1909 (Rojo *et al.* 2003; Steenis *et al.* 2018). One Australian species is associated with weaver ants (Downes *et al.* 2017). The eggs of pipizines have a ribbed surface and the posterior respiratory process consisting of separate tubes on two strongly sclerotized processes in the first instar larva, both characters unique among Syrphidae (Kuznetsov 1988, 1992).

The classification of the pipizines has been a longstanding taxonomic problem as they have been grouped within Syrphinae Latreille, 1802, Eristalinae Newman, 1834 or even treated as a separate subfamily. The larval feeding mode is shared with the Syrphinae, but several adult characters are shared with the Eristalinae (e.g., Thompson 1972; Cheng *et al.* 2000) including a pilose postpronotum (bare in Syrphinae) and male abdomen with four unmodified pregenital segments (five in Syrphinae). As earlier proposed by Williston (1885) and Kuznetsov (1992), the recent combined morphological and molecular cladistic analyses showed that this group of genera deserves the rank of sub-family, the Pipizinae Williston, 1885 (Mengual *et al.* 2015).

Pipizinae has an almost worldwide distribution, but it is not known from the Afrotropical region, with most of its genera and species occurring in the Palearctic region (Mutin 1998; Steenis & Lucas 2011; Huang & Cheng 2012; Vujić *et al.* 2013; Pape & Evenhuis 2018). Knutson *et al.* (1975) listed three species from two genera (*Pipiza* and *Triglyphus* Loew, 1840) for the Oriental region and Downes *et al.* (2017) added the occurrence of the genus *Trichopsomyia* for this region comprising two species, based on one male from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, erroneously stated as originating from Indonesia, and a female from Vietnam. Another species, *T. pilosa* sp. nov. from Java is here described, based on males only.

The pilose katepisternum, well developed metasternum and the long pilose metafemur sets the Oriental and Australian specimens of the genus *Trichopsomyia* aside from all other known species in this group. The aim of this study is to give the first records and description of the Oriental species of the genus *Trichopsomyia* and to discuss the value of the character states of the pilosity of the katepisternum and the development of the metasternum in phylogenetic analyses.

Material and methods

The specimens were studied using a Leica Wild M10 stereo microscope with a 2.5 times drawing tube. Genitalia were soaked in barbers fluid and removed from the otherwise dry specimens by means of an

entomological pin and afterwards briefly boiled in a 10% KOH solution. The genitalia were stored in a genital vial containing glycerol after having been successively rinsed in 70% acetic acid, distilled water and 90% ethanol. The genitalia were drawn in liquid by use of the aforementioned drawing tube. Other figures were made by stacking several photos, using a Zerene Stacker 1.04, taken with a Canon EOS D6 camera equipped with a Canon MP-E 1–5 × macro lens and a Yongnuo YN14EX macro ring flash. The genitalia drawings and stacked images were further edited with the image editing program GIMP 2.8.14.

The terminology used is based on Thompson (1999), for the genitalia on Downes *et al.* (2017). All specimens used for Figs 3–5 are deposited in the private collection of the first author (JSA).

Repositories

The specimens studied are deposited in:

NHM = Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom

JSA = Private collection of the first author Jeroen van Steenis

Results

Class Insecta Linnaeus, 1758

Order Diptera Linnaeus, 1758

Family Syrphidae Latreille, 1802

Subfamily Pipizinae Williston, 1885

Genus *Trichopsomyia* Williston, 1888

The Oriental species of Trichopsomyia

Trichopsomyia pilosa sp. nov.

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Figs 1–2, 3C

Diagnosis

Large, predominantly black and long black pilose pipizine; thorax black, extensively black pilose; wing brown infuscated; cell c wide; legs black with long pilose tarsi and metaleg; terga II and III with large rectangular brownish antero-lateral maculae; genitalia (Fig. 2) epandrium elongate; surstylus bilobed with rather long baso-dorsal process and with very long, elongate and slightly sickle-shaped narrow, elongate ventral process; hypoproct (see Downes *et al.* 2017) mushroom shaped, shaft on ventral surface densely but short pilose; hypandrium narrow, elongate with elongate rectangular process; postgonite (see Downes *et al.* 2017) dome-shaped in lateral view, with several small tooth in two rows on apico-ventral surface.

Etymology

The specific epithet ‘pilosa’, the Latin word for ‘hairy’, refers to the extensively and long pilose katepisternum, the long pili on the metasternum and especially the long pilose metatibia. The name is to be treated as an adjective.

Type material

Holotype

INDONESIA – Java • ♂; “Java: // Tjigaeha // i.1938 // coll. E. le Mout”; “QR-code // NHMUK 010864268”; NHM.

Paratypes

INDONESIA – Java • 1 ♂; same collection data as for holotype; “NHMUK 010864267”; JSA • 1 ♂; “Java: // Gunung Malang // Djampang Wetan // ii.1938 // coll. E. le Moul’t”; “QR-code // NHMUK 010864266”; NHM.

Description

Male

LENGTH. Body 9.7–11.4 mm, wing 8.2–9.3 mm.

HEAD. Facial shape simple, in lateral view, almost straight, without central knob and without antennal tubercle; oral cavity round, smooth without notch; clypeus horse-shoe shaped; face black, black pilose; frons black, black pilose with two small white pollinose maculae laterally along eye margin (Fig. 1C); vertical triangle black, black pilose; eye pilose; postocular orbit dorsally broad; eye-contiguity relatively short, about a quarter as long as length of vertical triangle; antenna (Fig. 1D) orange-brown, elongate, basoflagellomere four times longer than broad.

THORAX. Black, extensively pilose; postpronotum pilose; katepisternum almost entirely pilose, only narrowly bare antero-dorsally and medially along posterior margin (Fig. 3C); katepimeron pilose; metasternum rather well developed with some pile medio-laterally.

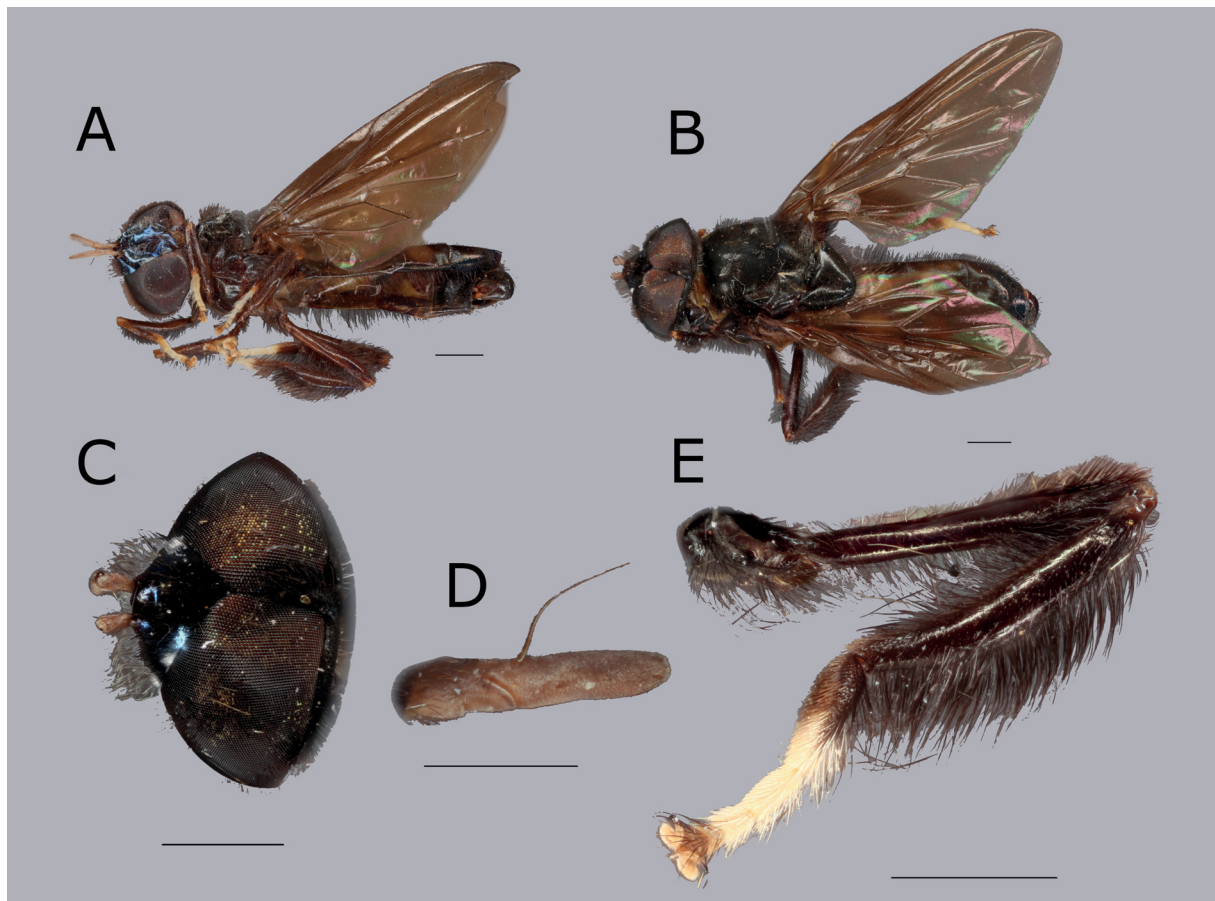


Fig. 1. *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov. **A.** Habitus, lateral view, holotype ♂ (NHMUK 010864268). **B.** Habitus, dorsal view, paratype ♂ (NHMUK 010864266). **C.** Head, dorsal view, paratype ♂ (NHMUK 010864266). **D.** Antenna, lateral view, holotype ♂ (NHMUK 010864268). **E.** Metaleg, frontal view, paratype ♂ (JSA). Scale bars: A–C, E = 1.0 mm; D = 0.5 mm.

WING. Membrane entirely brownish infuscated (Fig. 1A–B) covered with unusually long microtrichia, except bare on basal $\frac{1}{10}$ of cell bm; cell c exceptionally wide, clearly wider than cell bm; vein dm-cu ending almost perpendicularly to vein M; vein M_1 ending strongly oblique at vein R_{4+5} .

LEGS. Black, except apical half of basitarsi, and tarsomeres 2–4 white; pile long and predominantly black, but white parts of tarsi with long white pile; metaleg (Fig. 1E) with femur narrow and elongate, but slightly thickened and more densely long pilose apically; metatibia broad, laterally compressed and densely long-haired, hairs on dorsal surface longer than width of tibia.

ABDOMEN. Black and rather long black pilose; terga II and III each with one pair of large rectangular yellowish-brown maculae; pregenital terga black pilose.

GENITALIA (Fig. 2). See under diagnosis and remarks.

Female

Unknown.

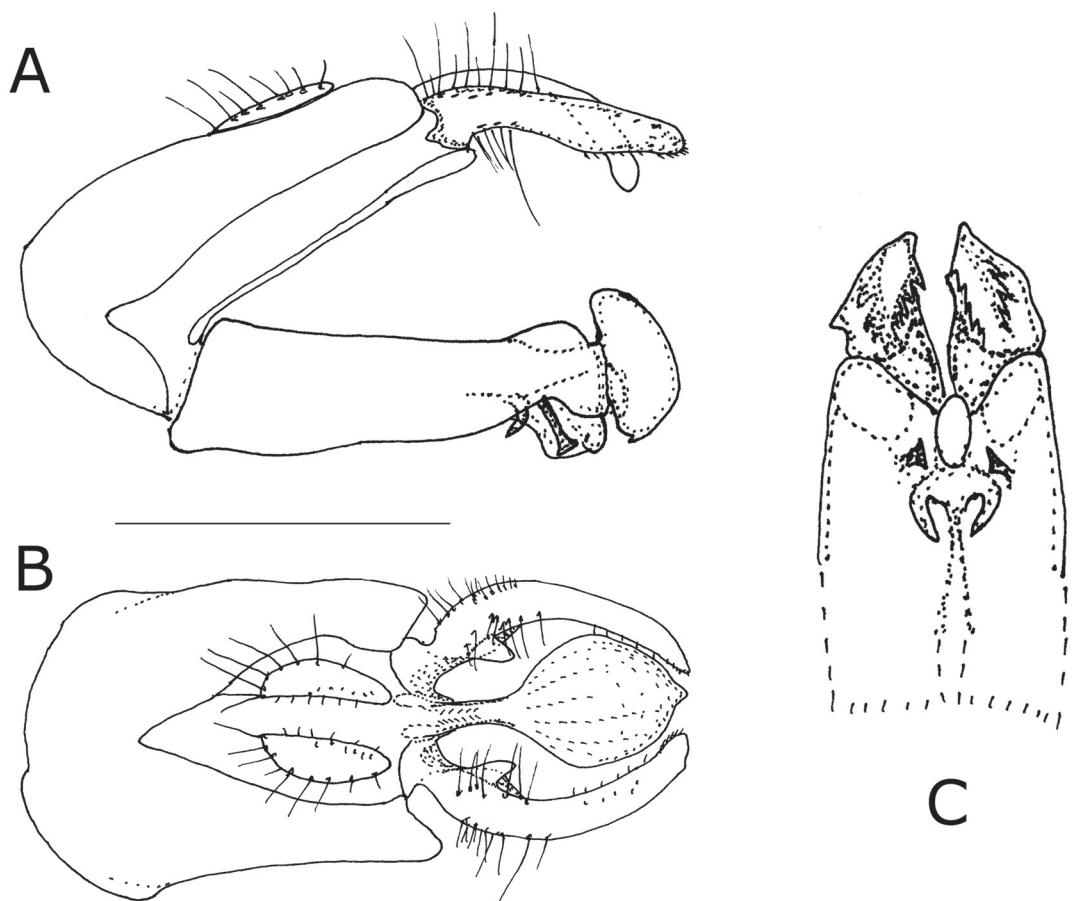


Fig. 2. *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov., male genitalia, holotype (NHMUK 010864268). **A.** Lateral view. **B.** Epandrium, dorsal view. **C.** Apical part of hypandrium, ventral view. Scale bars = 0.5 mm.

Remarks

According to the description and figures in Downes *et al.* (2017), our species is similar to the Australian *Trichopsomyia formiciphila* Downes, Skevington & Thompson, 2017 based on the overall appearance of the species and especially the extent of pilosity on the katepisternum, the shape of the metasternum, the colour of the legs and abdomen, the long basoflagellomere and the infuscated wing with wide cell c. *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov. differs from *T. formiciphila* by the long white pile on the tarsi, the very long black pile on the metatibia and several characters in the male genitalia like the surstylus with the apico-medial surface weakly and short pilose (more densely and long pilose in *T. formiciphila*); the shape of surstylus in ventral view weakly curved (more strongly curved in *T. formiciphila*); and the apico-dorsal gonocercus with weak teeth in two rows (stronger teeth present, not aligned in clear rows in *T. formiciphila*).

Discussion

Phylogenetic characters for the *Trichopsomyia formiciphila* group

All known genera of Pipizinae have clearly separated pile patches on the katepisternum (Mengual *et al.* 2015). In the character matrix of Hippha & Ståhls (2005), *Pipizella viduata* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Trichopsomyia flavitarsis* (Meigen, 1822) are, however, stated to be wholly pilose, but based on our observations this must be a type setting error. The two known species of *Trichopsomyia* from the Oriental and Australian regions are clearly differentiated from all other Pipizinae by the almost entirely pilose katepisternum, indicating these species are closely related and possibly form a subgroup within *Trichopsomyia*. The relatively bare katepisternum is also found in Microdontinae Rondani, 1845 (Reemer & Ståhls 2013) and the following species: *Brachyopa testacea* (Fallén, 1817) (Fig. 5C) and *B. obscura* Thompson & Torp, 1982 (Bot & Van de Meutter 2019) while most other species of *Brachyopa* Meigen, 1822 have a ventral and a dorsal pile patch. In *Myolepta* Newman, 1838 and *Eumerus* Meigen, 1822, the extension of the pilosity differentiates between the *M. dubia* (Fabricius, 1805) and the *E. tricolor* (Fabricius, 1798) groups (medial pilosity, connecting dorsal and ventral pile patch), and the *M. vara* (Panzer, 1798) and the *E. strigatus* (Fallén, 1817) (sub)groups (only dorsal and ventral pile patch present) (Grković *et al.* 2019; Steenis 2020). On the other hand, an extensively pilose katepisternum is found in genera of different subfamilies like *Scaeva* Fabricius, 1805 (Fig. 3A) and *Psilota* Meigen, 1822 (Fig. 3B). The extent of pilosity differs widely within and between genera and even subfamilies, thus indicating this character is most likely highly homoplastic within Syrphidae and cannot solely be used to distinguish between genera.

The size and the shape of the metasternum is another widely used character in the phylogeny of Syrphidae (Thompson 1972; Hippha & Ståhls 2005). Within the subfamily Pipizinae, the metasternum is poorly developed and the medial part is either round (in *Pipiza*) or slightly elongate (e.g., *Pipizella* Rondani, 1856 and *Trichopsomyia*) and always bare of pilosity. In the *T. formiciphila* group, the metasternum is rather well developed, and in *T. pilosa* sp. nov., it bears one pili on each side. The development of the metasternum is the key character used in differentiating between *Melanostoma* Schiner, 1860 on the one hand, and *Platycheirus* Lepeletier & Serville, 1828 (Andersson 1970) and *Afrostoma* Skevington, Thompson & Vockeroth, 2014 (Thompson & Skevington 2014) on the other. The development of the metasternum as a key character in differentiating *Afrostoma* from *Melanostoma* was recently rejected by Mengual (2019) who synonymized these two genera. The extent and length of the pilosity were used to separate several genera of Xylotini Williston, 1886 (Hippha 1978), but also to separate *Eupeodes* (*Lapposyrphus*) *lapponicus* (Zetterstedt, 1838) from all other species of *Eupeodes* Osten Sacken, 1877 (Dušek & Láška 1967). The use of the development of the metasternum and also its pilosity in separating species into different (sub)genera does not seem to be useful in all groups.

The male genitalia of the two species of the *T. formiciphila* group show some differences from other species of this genus, indicating a possible separate genus-group rank.

Based on the extent of pilosity on the katepisternum, the size and the shape of the metasternum, and the differences in genitalia, the *T. formiciphila* group may deserve a sub-group ranking. Molecular data (Jeffrey Skevington pers. comm.), however, refute this and suggest that the *T. formiciphila* group is nested within *Trichopsomyia*. More genes and a quantitative morphological phylogeny should be explored to test these competing hypotheses, but until that is done, a new genus should not be erected for the *T. formiciphila* group. This, however, lies out of the scope of this paper and is left for future research preferably on the entire world fauna of Pipizinae including fossil forms as outlined in Nidergas *et al.* (2018).

Pilosity on the katepisternum

The pilosity of the katepisternum is widely used in phylogenetics of Syrphidae as a character to distinguish between genera (e.g., Vockeroth 1969; Hippa & Ståhls 2005; Reemer & Ståhls 2013; Mengual *et al.* 2015). The character states used by Hippa & Ståhls (2005) for defining the extent of pilosity are: 0:

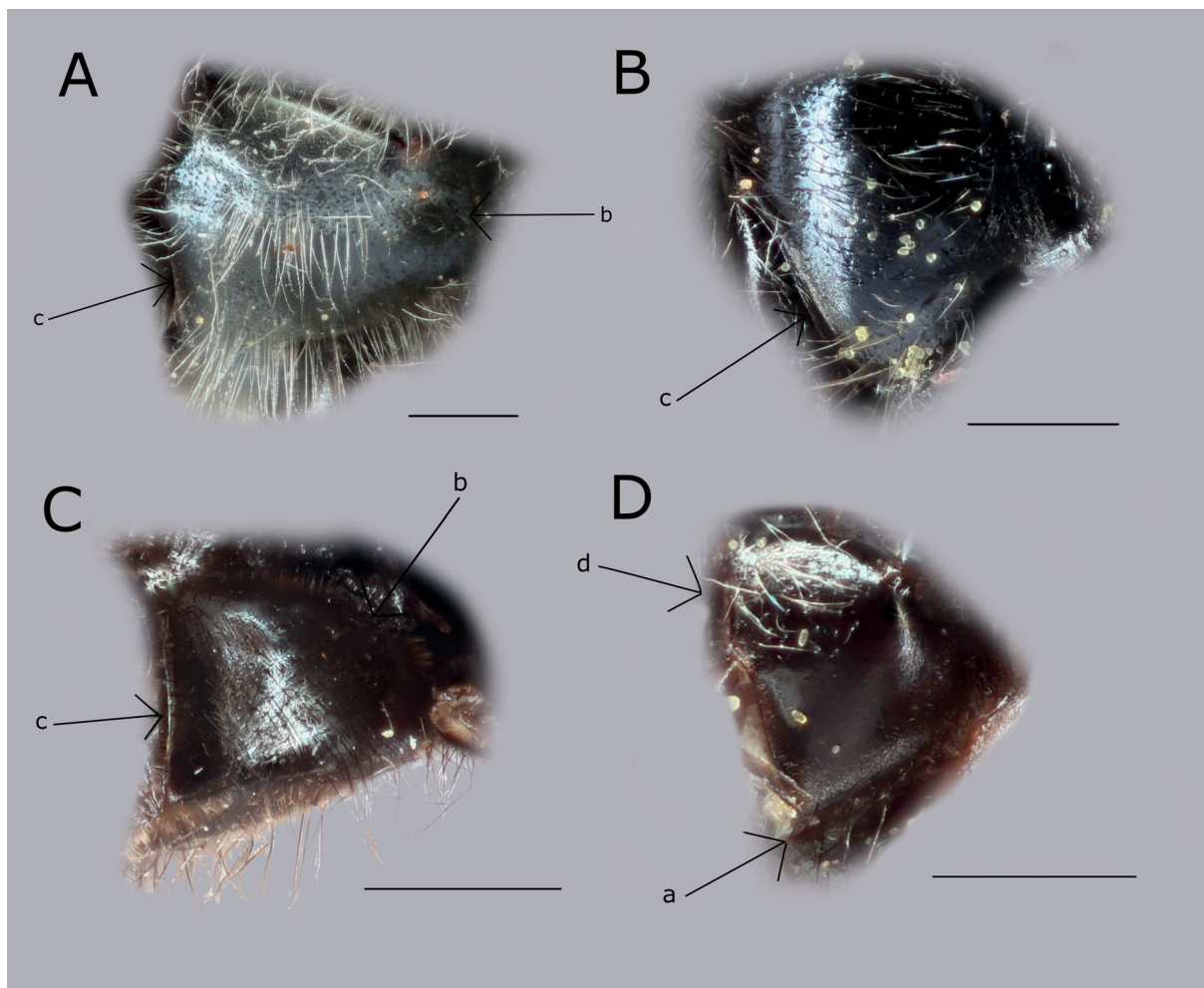


Fig. 3. Pilosity of the katepisternum, ventro-lateral view. **A.** *Scaeva pyrastris* (Linnaeus, 1758), ♂ (JSA), Switzerland, with extensive pilosity. **B.** *Psilota atra* (Fallén, 1817), ♂ (JSA), the Netherlands, with extensive pilosity. **C.** *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov., paratype ♂ (JSA), with extensive pilosity. **D.** *Trichopsomyia joratensis* Goeldlin, 1997, ♀ (JSA), Belgium, with separated dorsal and ventral pile patch. Scale bars = 0.5 mm. a = ventral pile patch; b = antero-dorsal area; c = postero-medial margin; d = dorsal pile patch.

entirely pilose, e.g., *Callicera aenea* (Fabricius, 1777), *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli, 1763) (Fig. 5A) and *Temnostoma vespiformis* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 4D); 1 = dorsal and ventral pile patch present, e.g., *Chrysogaster solstitialis* (Fallén, 1817), *Rhingia campestris* Meigen, 1822, *Spilomyia diophthalma* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Syrphus vitripennis* (Meigen, 1822) and *Xylota segnis* (Linnaeus, 1758); 2 = only dorsal pile patch present, e.g., *Neoascia* Williston, 1887 (Fig. 5B) and *Sphegina* Meigen, 1822. Character states 1 and 2 are rather clear, although in some genera the dorsal and the ventral pile patch are connected by a narrow row of pile medially, e.g., in *Chrysogaster solstitialis* and *Syrphus vitripennis* categorized in the new state 44A: 0 (see below). Entirely pilose, in many genera, is in reality only pilose on posterior $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ with medial part of posterior margin broadly non-pilose, e.g., *Sphaerophoria scripta* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Volucella inanis* (Linnaeus, 1758) and the under ‘entirely pilose’ listed species above. Besides *Trichopsomyia pilosa* sp. nov., we found only a few species with almost entirely pilose katapisternum, e.g., *Mallota fuciformis* (Fabricius, 1794), *Psilota atra* (Fallén, 1817) (Fig. 3B) and *Scaeva pyrastris*

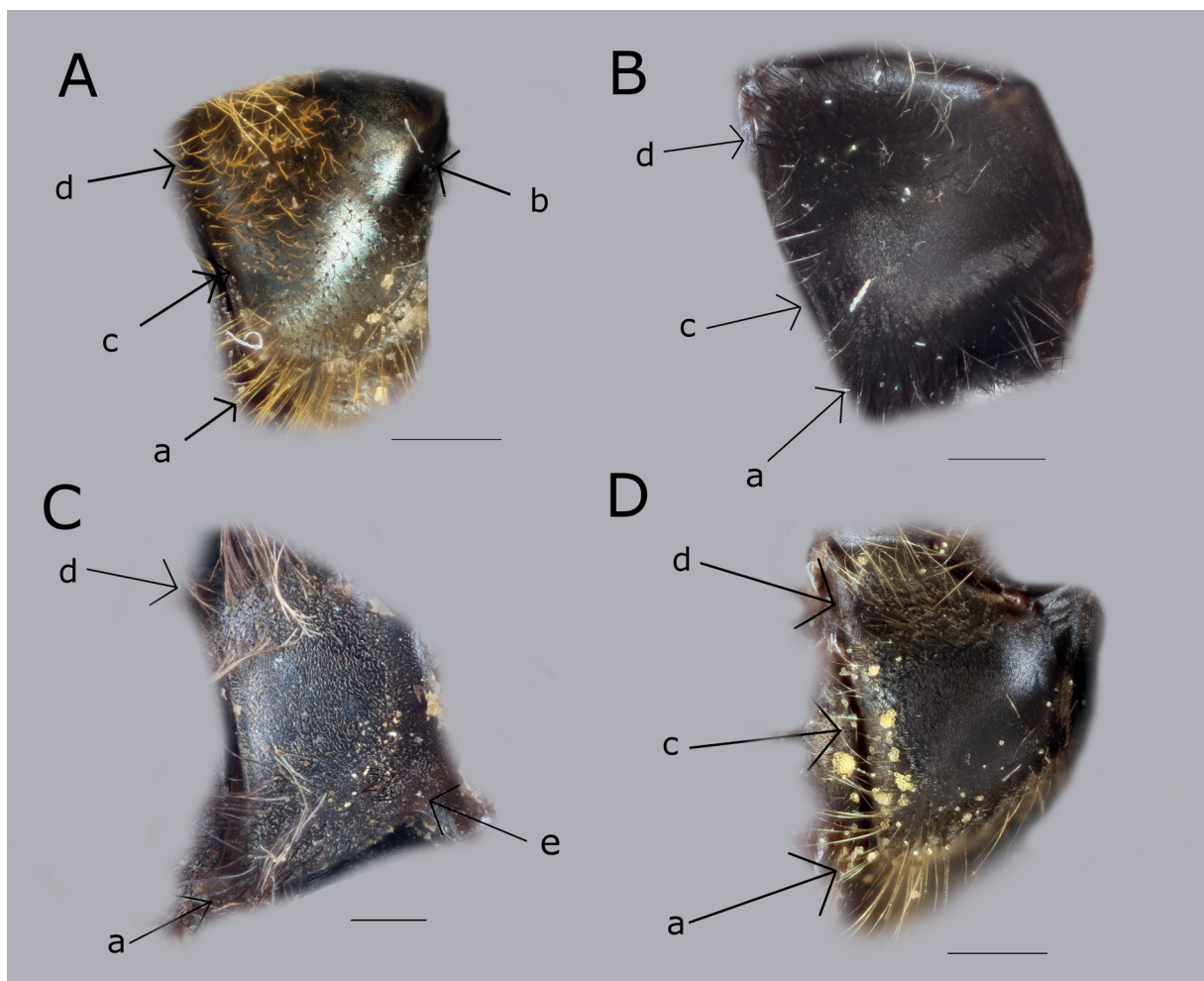


Fig. 4. Pilosity of the katapisternum, ventro-lateral view. **A.** *Callicera macquarti* Rondani, 1843, ♀ (JSA), Cyprus, with medially connected dorsal pile patch with entire pilose ventral margin. **B.** *Eriozona syrphoides* (Fallén, 1817), ♂ (JSA), Belgium, with posteriorly connected dorsal pile patch with entire pilose ventral margin. **C.** *Pocota personata* (Harris, 1780), ♀ (JSA), Sweden, with three pile patches: dorsal, ventral and antero-medial. **D.** *Temnostoma vespiformis* (Linnaeus, 1758), ♂ (JSA), the Netherlands, with posteriorly connected dorsal and ventral pile patches. Scale bars = 0.5 mm. a = ventral pile patch; b = antero-dorsal area; c = postero-medial margin; d = dorsal pile patch; e = antero-medial pile patch.

(Linnaeus, 1758) (Fig. 3A). On the other hand, in *Pocota personata* (Harris, 1780) (Fig. 4C) there are three pile patches, a postero-dorsal, a postero-ventral and an antero-medial one. There are also species where only a ventral pile patch is present, e.g., *Brachyopa testacea* (Fig. 5C). The entirely non-pilose condition is not known in Syrphidae (Hippra & Ståhls 2005; Mengual *et al.* 2015). These examples make it clear that the old character states are much more complex and should be revised in the manner described below.

The three character states of the pilosity of the katapisternum are clearly not enough and should be extended to include all of the states as discussed above; however, for a phylogenetic analysis the number of codings is not unlimited. The proper use of the pilosity character has become more difficult and it is not easy to adjust this otherwise important character. The species in which the medial part of the katapisternum is pilose have always a ventral and dorsal pile patch, so the characters could be divided into two, numbered in accordance with Hippra & Ståhls (2005): 44A: 0 = medial part of katapisternum pilose (Figs 3A–C, 4A–B, D, 5A); 1 = medial part of katapisternum bare (Figs 3D, 4C, 5B–D). The

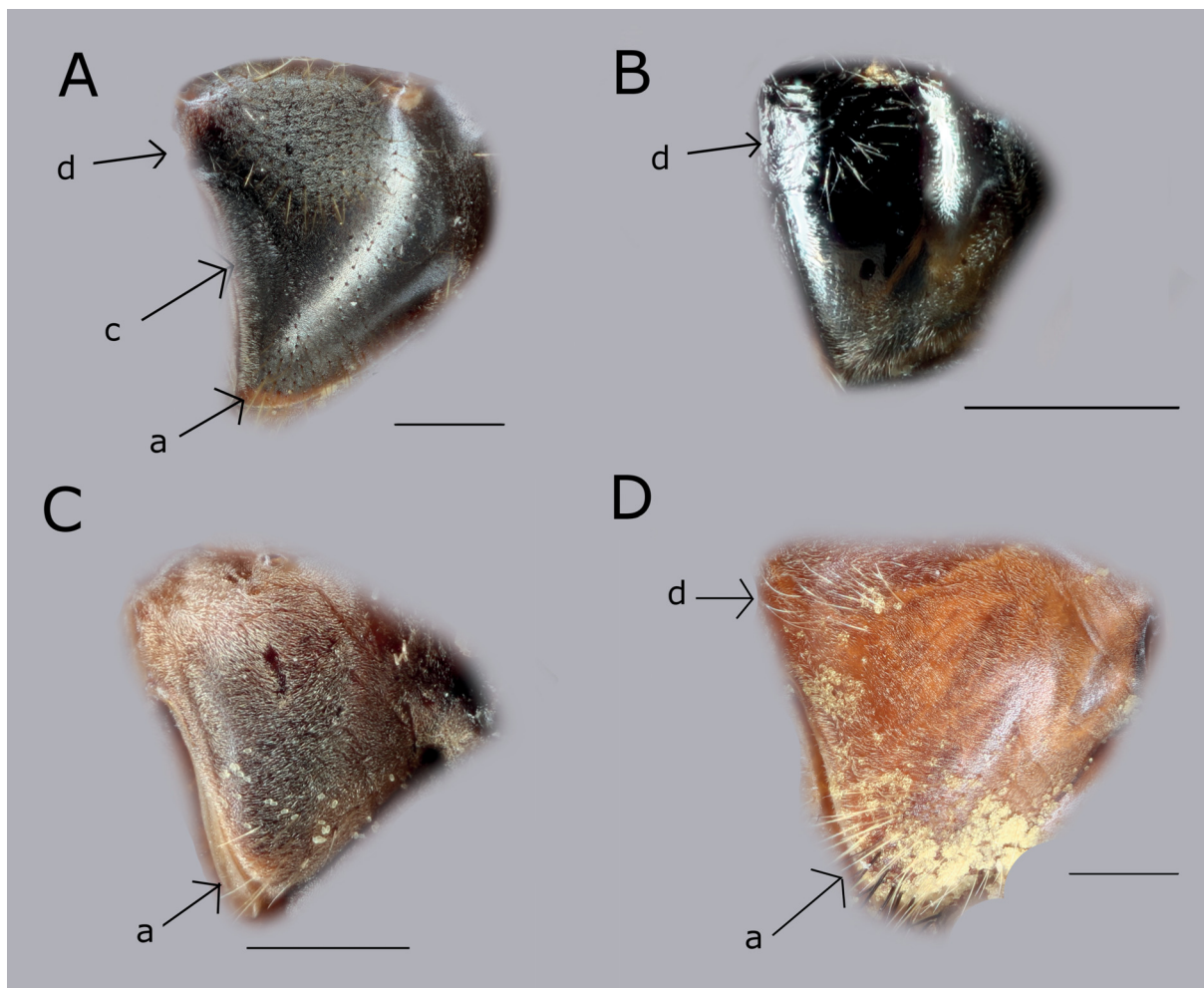


Fig. 5. Pilosity of the katapisternum, ventro-lateral view. **A.** *Ferdinandea cuprea* (Scopoli, 1763), ♂ (JSA), the Netherlands, with medially connected dorsal and ventral pile patches. **B.** *Neoascia annexa* (Müller, 1776), ♀ (JSA), Germany, with ventral pile patch only. **C.** *Brachyopa testacea* (Fallén, 1817), ♂ (JSA), Belgium, with dorsal pile patch only. **D.** *Hammerschmidtia ferruginea* (Fallén, 1817), ♂ (JSA), Sweden, with dorsal and ventral pile patches, ventrally with additional long black setae. Scale bars = 0.5 mm. a = ventral pile patch; c = postero-medial margin; d = dorsal pile patch.

first division differentiates between the former state ‘entirely pilose’ and is subdivided into four states: **44B0**: 0 = katepisternum extensively pilose, postero-medial margin at most narrowly bare and anterior $\frac{1}{3}$ and entire antero-ventral part pilose (Fig. 3A–C); 1 = medial pile patch connecting dorsal and ventral pile patches, leaving at least the postero-medial area and the anterior half of the katepisternum bare (Figs 3C, 4, 5A); 2 = dorsal and ventral pile patches connected by narrow pilose area along posterior margin (Fig. 4B, D); 3 = three separated pile patches present (Fig. 4C). The second division (44A: 1) should then be subdivided into three character states: **44B1**: 0 = dorsal and ventral pile patches present (Figs 3D, 5D); 1 = only a dorsal pile patch present (Fig. 5B); 2 = only a ventral pile patch present (Fig. 5C). In most species with character state **44B0**: 2, the ventral pile patch is extended to cover almost the entire ventral margin of the katepisternum, while in the other species there is only a postero-ventral pile patch present.

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