

# Faroese Hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae): Checklist to the Year 2000

Yvirlit yvir blómuflugur skrásettar í Føroyum

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## Úrtak

Eitt dagført yvirlit yvir blómuflugur, sum eru skrásettar í Føroyum. Til samans eru 27 sløg í yvirlitinum, og av teimum eru tær 15 funnar fyri fyrstu ferð á rannsóknarferðum í tíðarskeiðinum frá 1992 til 2000. 2 flugusløg, ið vóru skrásettar í gomlu listunum, eru strikaðar í hesum yvirlitinum, tí tær eru ov ivasamar. Øll tey nýggju skrásettu blómuflugusløgini eru merkt við \*.

## Abstract

Presented here is an updated checklist of hoverflies recorded in the Faroe Islands. A total of 27 hoverfly species are listed, 15 of which are recorded for the first time in the Faroe Islands.

## Introduction

Two hundred and eighteen years have gone since J.C. Svabo in 1781-82 (Svabo, 1959: 241) wrote: "Fluä, *musca domestica*. *Musca pendula* is also found here". *Musca pendula* could very well be *Helophilus pendulus* L. or another syrphid-fly (!) in Lyneborg (1968). Hansen (1881) gave the first real contribution to the knowledge of the diptera fauna of the Faroes. Up to 1968, successive entomologists collected diptera *Brachycra* and *Cyclorrhapha* in the Faroes: Walker (1890), Lundbeck (1913), Becker

(1915), Stein (1915), Ringdahl (1925), and Kryger (unpubl. collection 1925 and 1926). A total of 13 species of Syrphidae is published in Lyneborg (1968). The hoverfly breakthrough came in 1992 when Hugo N. Christensen spent 14 days on a hoverfly-catching expedition in the Faroes. He turned the author's interest towards this subject and the collection of hoverflies increased. More than 3,400 hoverflies have been collected in the intervening years. The greater part of the locations was centred in and near towns and villages. As a consequence, more catching in isolated areas is needed in order to get a fuller picture of the resident hoverfly populations. As yet, many species of immigrating hoverflies have not been caught in the Faroe Islands, but with the right weather conditions it should be possible. This is indicated by our research in which at least 10 of the new species found in the Faroe Islands were immigrants. The specimens are all kept at the Faroese Museum of Natural History except 75 hoverflies belonging to H. N. Christensen (Denmark) and a small study collec-

tion belonging to the author, which will be donated to the Faroese Museum of Natural History at a later date.

### Materials and Methods

From 1992 to 31 December 1999, hoverflies have been caught at 67 different locations (and in 6 other locations before 1927) in the Faroes. Ernst Torp determined all hoverflies caught between 1992 and 1995. Since then, common species have been determined by the author with guidance from Stubbs (1996), Stubbs and Falk (1983), Torp (1994), and Verlinden (1991). Most of the new species for the Faroes, as well as the dubious, were determined and/or controlled by Ernst Torp or C. W. Plant. Specimens caught and determined by the author himself do not have a "det." reference. As for "Distribution" in neighbouring countries of the Faroe Islands, the author was guided by Jensen (1994), Johnston (1999), Nielsen (1999), Ólafsson (1991), and Pennington (1999). For "Status", the author was guided by Parsons (1996), Stubbs and Falk (1983), Torp (1994), and Truscott (1998), together with personal observations. All hoverflies from Stóra Dímun were caught by Kinna úr Dímun.

There are two species from Becker (1915) that the author cannot corroborate. Recent statements indicate that they have been caught in the Faroes. The first is *Platycheirus immarginatus* (Stæger in Zetterstedt, 1849). Dampf and Rosen caught two females of this species in 1912 (Becker, 1915). According to the author, females of the species are difficult to determine and without verification they cannot



**Fig. 1.** The black dots indicate where hoverflies were caught from 1992 up to and including 1999. The clear dots indicate where hoverflies were caught before 1927 and where no further research has been done between 1992 and 2000. No registration of hoverflies in the Faroe Islands has been published for the period 1927 to 1992.

**Mynd 1.** Skrásetingar av blómuflugum (Syrphidae) 1992-2000 (●). Skrásetingar áðrenn 1927, har eingin kanning er farin fram síðani (○). Einki finst á prenti um skrásetingar av blómuflugum í Føroyum tíðarskeiðið 1927-1992.

be acknowledged. The second species: *Melanogaster hirtella* (Loew, 1843) (= *Chrysogaster hirtella* Loew, 1843). One female was caught on 12 August 1912 by Dampf and Rosen (Becker, 1915) in Tórshavn. This species, however, cannot be

acknowledged without verification by the author.

*Systematic list of species recorded in the Faroe Islands*

Twenty-seven hoverfly species from six tribes are recorded in the Faroe Islands, most of them by the author. In the section, "Caught in the following places", the letter "A" is used when the species was only caught in the respective area before 1927 (Lyneborg, 1968). No hoverflies were registered between 1927 and 1992 in the Faroe Islands. Under the reference term, "Distribution", neighbouring countries include Iceland, Shetland, and/or the rest of the UK, Ireland, and Norway. New hoverflies to the Faroes are marked with an asterisk (\*).

Subfamily SYRPHINAE

Tribe BACCHINI

\**Xanthandrus comtus* (Harris, 1780)

**Vevjarasveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland and Shetland.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: Only caught once.

Caught in the following places:

Nólsoy: 1 female on 22 September 1998.

***Melanostoma* sp. (Schiner, 1860)**

Distribution: Occurs in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Remarks: It is the most numerous and widespread genus. There are some good specimens of *M. melinum* and some good specimens of *M. scalare*, but a number of intermediates have been caught as well. It is unclear at the present moment if this reflects a mere variation of males (no variation in females has yet been found) or if this is the presence of new species. Therefore, they are only treated as genus.

Flight period: 28 May to 31 September.

Caught in the following places:

Argir, Bøur, Eiði, Elduvík, Fámjin, Froðba, Funningsfjørður, Haraldssund, Strond on Borðoy, Hestur, Húsar, Húsavík, Hvalba, Hvalvík, Hvannasund, Kirkjubøreyn, Kunoy, Lambi, Langasandur (A), Leitisvatn, Leirvík, Lopra, Miðvágur, Mikladalur, Nes (Vágur), Nólsoy, Norðskáli, Norðragøta, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandavágur, Sandur, Sandvík, Skarvanes, Skopun, Skúvoy, Sumba, Svínø, Sørvágur, Tjørnunes on Nólsoy, Toftir, Toftavatn, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri, Vágur, Vatnsoyrar, Vestmanna, Viðareiði, Víkarbyrgi, Æðuvík, Øravík.

***Platycheirus clypeatus* (Meigen, 1822)**

**Skjaldsveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Remarks: Only males from this species are included in this research.

Flight period: 5 June to 26 September.

Caught in the following places:

Elduvík, Fámjin, Froðba, Hov, Húsavík, Klaksvík, Koltur (A), Lambi, Lopra, Nes (Hvalba), Nes (Vágur), Nólsoy, Porkeri, Rituvík, Sandur, Skálavík, Sørvágur, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Viðareiði, Víkarbyrgi, Æðuvík, Øravík.

***Platycheirus cyaneus* (Müller, 1764)**

**Blásveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 13 June to 21 September.

Caught in the following places:

Árnafjørður, Akraberg, Dalur, Eiði, Elduvík, Froðba, Funningsfjørður, Gjógv, Húsavík, Hvalvík, Kunoy, Lambi, Leitisvatn, Leirvík, Lopra, Miðvágur, Mykines, Nólsoy, Nes (Vágur), Porkeri, Rituvík, Hov, Runavík, Sand (A), Sandvík, Skarvanes, Skúvoy, Sumba, Sørvágur, Skálavík, Tjørnunes (Nólsoy), Toftir, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri, Vatnsoyrar, Víkarbyrgi, Vestmanna, Øravík.





**Fig. 2.** *Platycheirus manicatus* (Meigen) (bulldog hover fly, Preston-Mafkam, 1999) female from Nólsoy 10.viii.1993 det. J-K. Jensen. The photo demonstrates a cryptic female *manicatus* specimen where most of the front and the thorax is shining. Photo J-K. Jensen.

**Mynd 2.** *Platycheirus manicatus* (Meigen) (trantsveima) kvennfluga úr Nólsoy 10.viii.1993 leg. J-K. Jensen. Myndin er av eini gátufullari kvennflugu við blonkum enni og bringu. Foto J-K. Jensen.

***Platycheirus manicatus* (Meigen, 1822)**

**Trantsveima** (Fig. 2)

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident

Remarks: Several female specimens do not conform to the characteristics of *P. manicatus* and are intermediate between *P. manicatus* and *P. melanopsis*. It is unclear at the present moment if this reflects a mere variation of females (no variation in males has yet been found) or if it indicates the presence of a new and cryptic species.

Flight period: 16 May to 9 September.

Caught in the following places:

Bøur, Dalur, Eiði, Fámjin, Fjallavatn, Froðba, Haraldssund, Hestur, Húsar, Húsavík, Hvalvík, Kaldbak, Kirkjubøur, Klaksvík, Kollafjørður, Kunoy, Lambi, Mykines, Nes (Vágur), Nes (Hvalba), Nólsoy, Norðskáli, Porkeri, Rituvík, Sandvík, Skarvanes, Skopun, Skúvoy, Sumba, Sørvágur, Tjørnuvík, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri, Viðareiði, Øravík.

**\**Platycheirus occultus* (Goeldlin, Maibaach and Speight, 1990)**

**Huldusveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Unknown.

Remarks: Only males from this species are included. This specimen was caught by H. N. Christensen. The author has not seen the specimen, as it has been lost. Caught in the following places:

Lamba: 1 male on 25 June 1992, coll. by H. N. Christensen, det. E. Torp.

**\**Platycheirus podagratus* (Zetterstedt, 1838)**

**Norðsveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland and Shetland.

Status: Resident.

Remarks: Only males from this species are included in this research

Caught in the following places:

Rituvík: 1 male on 21 June 1994, det. E. Torp; Sandur: 1 male on 15 June 1995, det. E. Torp; Søltuvík: 1 male on 20 June 1997, det. E. Torp; 4 males on 21 June 1998; Hov: 1 male on 17 June 1999.

**\**Platycheirus ramsarensis* (Goeldin de Tiefenau, Maibach and Speight 1990)**

**Skorusveima**

Distribution: Unknown, but widespread in northern and western parts of Great Britain; uncommon in Shetland.

Remarks: Only males of these species are included in this research.

Caught in the following places:

Saksun: 1 male on 25 June 1992; Skopun: 1 male on 15 June 1995; Viðareiði: 3 males on 24 June 1995 (1 det. C. W. Plant); Nes (Vágur): 1 male on 16 June 1998, det. C. W. Plant.

**\**Platycheirus scutatus* (Meigen, 1822)**

**Klingrusveima**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries. Status: Resident.

Remarks: Caught only in Tórshavn.

Flight period: 29 May to 3 September.

Caught in the following places:

Tórshavn: 1 female 30 August 1992, 1 female and 1 male 13 June 1993, 1 male and 4 females 29 July 1993, 1 female 3 September 1993, 5 males and 2 females 29 May 1994, 6 males and 1 female 5 June 1994, 3 males and 2 females 18 June 1994, 6 males 12 July 1994, 2 males and 3 females 28 July 1994, 1 male and 4 females 29 July 1994, 2 females 23 August 1994; all det. by E. Torp.

**Tribe SYRPHINI**

**\**Syrphus torvus* (Osten Sacken, 1875)**

**Stapabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: *S. torvus* is both resident and immigrant.

Remarks: This specimen is very common in Tórshavn. There are indications that it has not been resident before as it has never been recorded. It is seen every

year in Nólsoy, but only as an immigrant together with other immigrant species. On Shetland, *S. torvus* and *S. vitripennis* are immigrants.

Flight period: 21 May to 10 September.

Caught in the following places:

Miðvágur, Nólsoy, Norðskáli, Runavík, Sandavágur, Selatrað, Sørvágur, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri, Velbastaður.

**\**Syrphus vitripennis* (Meigen, 1822)**

**Sunnanbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Immigrant.

Flight period: 3 August to 26 September.

Caught in the following places:

Tórshavn: 2 males and 1 female 26 September 1993, det. E. Torp; Tórshavn: 1 female 3 September 1993, det. E. Torp; Miðvágur: 1 female 7 August 1994, det. E. Torp; Nólsoy: 1 female 30 August 1994, det. E. Torp; Mikladalur: 1 female 3 August 1995, det. E. Torp; Tórshavn: 1 female 23 August 1995, 1 male 28 August 1995, det. E. Torp; Tórshavn: 2 males and 1 female 7 September 1996 and 3 males and 4 females 28 August 1996.

**\**Eupeodes corollae* (Fabricius, 1794)**

**Reðurbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: This species is the second most common immigrant in the Faroe Islands. It can be numerous in certain areas in late August. It could be a Faroese brood!

Flight period: 20 June to 5 October.

Caught in the following places:

Dalur, Miðvágur, Nólsoy, Sandur, Skúvoy, Sumba, Sørvágur, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Vágur.

**\**Scaeva pyrastris* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

**Neistabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: Only caught once.

Caught in the following places:

Sandur: 1 female 23 August 1994, det. E. Torp.



**\**Scaeva selenitica* (Meigen, 1822)****Kommabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Immigrant.

Caught in the following places:

Nólsoy: 1 male 19 September 1996, det. E. Torp, and 1 male 20 September 1996.

**\**Meliscaeva auricollis* (Meigen, 1822)****Ferðabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: During the eight years of study, it has been the third most common immigrant. The 35 specimens in 1996 were caught at a plant nursery in Tórshavn and were not found anywhere else that year in Tórshavn. It could be a Faroese brood!

Flight period: 1 August to 26 September.

Caught in the following places:

Nólsoy: 1 male 31 August 1993, det. E. Torp;  
Tórshavn: 1 female 23 August 1993, det. E. Torp, 2 females 26 September 1993, det. E. Torp, 1 male 3 September 1993, det. E. Torp, 1 male 12 September 1993, det. E. Torp, 1 male 16 September 1993, det. E. Torp, 1 male 23 August 1995, det. E. Torp, 18 males and 13 females 28 August 1996, 2 males and 1 female 7 September 1996, 1 male 21 September 1996;  
Sørvágur: 1 male 1 August 1996, 1 male 12 August 1997; Nólsoy: 3 females 20 August 1998, 1 male 23 August 1998.

**\**Episyrphus balteatus* (De Geer, 1776)****Tvírandabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: This species is the most common immigrant to the Faroes. It is seen every year, but in very different numbers. The species can be numerous from mid-August. It must be a Faroese brood.

Flight period: 20 June to 5 October.

Caught in the following places:

Dalur, Gjógv, Miðvágur, Nólsoy, Norðskáli, Sandavágur, Sandur, Sørvágur, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Vágur, Vatnsoygar.

**\**Sphaerophoria fatarum* (Goeldlin, 1989)****Lyngbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Shetland.

Status: Unknown.

Remarks: The author has subsequently searched for this species five times in the same area without any result.

Caught in the following places.

Runavík: 2 males and 1 female 25 June 1992 (by H. N. Christensen), det. E. Torp.

**Tribe SERICOMYIINI*****Sericomyia lappona* (Linnaeus, 1758)****Sóljubressa (Fig. 3)**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 25 May to 21 August.

Caught in the following places.

Árnafjørður, Eiði, Froðba, Hov, Hvalvík, Lambi, Leynar, Leitisvatn, Miðvágur, Mykines, Nes (Hvalba), Nes (Vágur), Norðskáli, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandvík, Selatrað, Skálavík, Skarvanes, Sumba, Sørvágur, Toftir, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur (A), Tvøroyri, Vatnsoygar, Vestmanna, Viðareiði, Øravík.

**Tribe CHRYSOGASTRINI****\**Neoascia tenur* (Harris, 1780)****Ósabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Remarks: Strangely, it has only been caught in the south of the Faroe Islands.

Flight period: 16 June to 23 August.

Caught in the following places:

Gróthúsvatn: 1 male 28 June 1991, det. E. Torp;  
Vágur: 14 males and 13 females, 20 August 1994, det. E. Torp; Sandur: 1 male on 23 August 1994, det. E. Torp; Hvalba: 9 males and 6 females 22 June 1996; Øravík: 1 female 23 June 1996, 2 males and 1 female 16 June 1998; Fámjin: 6 males and 2 females 17 June 1998; Skálavík: 2 males and 1 female, 18 June 1998; Nes (Hvalba): 3 females 16 June 1999; Nes (Vágur): 1 male and 1 female 17 June 1999.



**Fig. 3.** *Sericomyia lappona* (Linnaeus) (pale bog hover fly, Preston-Matham, 1999) female from Nólsoy 2.vii.1999 det. J-K. Jensen. It is our largest hoverfly species. It can be seen all over the Faroes, but it is few in number. Photo J-K. Jensen

**Mynd 3.** *Sericomyia lappona* (Linnaeus) (sóljubressa) kvennfluga úr Nólsoy 2.vii.1999 leg. J-K. Jensen. Sóljubressan er størsta blómuflugan í Føroyum. Hon sæst kring alt landið, hóast tað ikki er í stórum tali. Foto J-K. Jensen.

### ***Lejogaster metallina* (Fabricius, 1777)**

#### **Málmbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 14 June to 20 August.

Caught in the following places:

Argir (A), Eiði, Fámjin, Froðba, Hov, Hvalba, Kaldbak, Kirkjubøur, Klaksvík, Koltur (A), Lambi, Leitisvatn, Leirvík, Lopra, Miðvágur, Mykines, Nólsoy, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandur, Skálavík, Skopun, Skúvoy, Stóra Dímun, Søltuvík, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri (A), Vágur, Viðareiði, Æðuvík, Øravík.

### **Tribe ERISTALINI**

### ***Helophilus pendulus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

#### **Tikarabressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 21 May to 30 September.

Caught in the following places:

Dalur, Eiði, Fámjin, Froðba, Funningsfjørður, Havnardalur, Hov, Hvalba, Hvalvík, Kaldbak, Klaksvík, Kunoy, Lambi, Langasandur (A), Leitisvatn, Leirvík, Miðvágur, Mykines, Nólsoy, Norðragøta, Norðskáli, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandur, Skálavík, Skarvanes, Skopun, Skúvoy, Stóra Dímun, Sumba, Sørvgur, Tjørnunes (Nólsoy), Toftir, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur (A), Tvøroyri, Vágur, Vatnsøyrar, Viðareiði.



***Eristalis abusivus* Collin, 1931****Fenbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 14 June to 28 August.

Caught in the following places:

Argir (A), Eiði (K), Fámjin, Fugloy (A), Funningsfjørður, Hov, Hvalvík, Kaldbak, Kirkjubøur, Klaksvík, Lambi, Leirvík (A), Lopra, Miðvágur, Nes (Vágur), Nólsoy, Porkeri, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandur, Sumba, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Tvøroyri (A), Vágur, Vatnsøyrar, Vestmanna (A), Viðareiði, Æðuvík, Øravík.

***Eristalis arbustorum* (Linnaeus, 1758)****Mýribressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 4 June to 21 August.

Caught in the following places:

Bøur, Dalur, Fámjin, Fugloy (A), Húsavík, Hvalba, Miðvágur, Nes (Vágur), Nes (Hvalba), Nólsoy, Rituvík, Sandur (A), Sandvík, Skálavík, Skarvanes, Sumba, Svínoy (A), Sørvágur, Tjørnuvík, Toftir, Tórshavn, Trongisvágur, Vestmanna (A), Viðareiði, Æðuvík, Øravík.

***Eristalis intricarius* (Linnaeus, 1758)****Løðbressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries.

Status: Resident.

Flight period: 9 May to 31 August.

Caught in the following places:

Fámjin, Funningsfjørður, Hvalba, Hvalvík, Kaldbak, Kirkjubøur, Klaksvík, Kollafjørður, Lambi, Leitisvatn, Leirvík, Miðvágur, Norðragøta, Norðskáli, Rituvík, Runavík, Sandur, Skálavík, Skarvanes, Skipanes, Sørvágur, Toftir, Tórshavn, Tvøroyri (A), Vatnsøyrar, Vestmanna (K), Viðareiði.

**\**Eristalis tenax* (Linnaeus, 1758)****Surrubressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Immigrant.

Remarks: Only caught once.

Caught in the following places:

Nólsoy: 1 female 20 September 1996.

**Tribe XYLOTINI*****Syrirta pipiens* (Linnaeus, 1758)****Pípubressa**

Distribution: Known in all neighbouring countries, except Iceland.

Status: Most likely an immigrant.

Remarks: Only caught once (Lyneborg, 1968).

Caught in the following places:

Trongisvágur: 1 male 1915 (A).

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