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Recent records of Conopidae from Corsica (Diptera)

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Abstract. – Details of recent material of nine species of Conopidae from Corsica are set out; *Merziella longirostris* (Lyneborg, 1962), *Physocephala rufipes* (Fabricius, 1781) and *Zodion cinereum* (Fabricius, 1794) are reported for Corsica for the first time. A list of Conopidae published to date for Corsica is provided and critically evaluated. In total some 28 species of Conopidae are reported from Corsica, although the occurrence of four of those species remains doubtful.

Résumé. – **Observations récentes de Conopidae en Corse (Diptera).** Des détails sur du matériel récent de neuf espèces de Conopidae de Corse sont présentés ; *Merziella longirostris* (Lyneborg, 1962), *Physocephala rufipes* (Fabricius, 1781) et *Zodion cinereum* (Fabricius, 1794) sont signalés pour la première fois de Corse. Une liste des Conopidae publiés à ce jour pour la Corse est fournie et évaluée de manière critique. Au total, 28 espèces de Conopidae sont signalées de Corse, bien que la présence de quatre d'entre elles reste douteuse.

Keywords. – Faunistic records, France, *Merziella*.

Within the alycyptrate Diptera, the often large and striking Conopidae are amongst the most highly investigated of families, with a long tradition of faunistic research in Europe. Eighty-three of the 780 species currently recognised worldwide have so far been recorded from Europe, and MARTINEZ (2022a) lists 58 of these species for France. The larvae of European Conopidae are all believed to develop as endoparasitoids of adult Hymenoptera Aculeata, and as a result there is a strong diminution in the diversity of conopid species extending from the southern temperate zones to northern regions which reflects that which is also shown in the Hymenoptera fauna. Due to the relationship with Hymenoptera Aculeata, many species of which are declining in Europe, several conopids are now highly endangered.

Almost all that we know about the Conopidae of Corsica has previously been based on the material collected by the German teacher and entomologist Karl August Wilhelm Schnuse (1850-1909). Schnuse visited Corsica in June and July 1899 and found 13 species of Conopidae, which were identified and published by KUNTZE (1913). Kuntze obtained Schnuse's collection after his death and this was very probably deposited at the museum in Dresden, although hardly any of Schnuse's material could recently be found there (STUKE & KEHLMAYER 2008). This may have been because of a past loan of the conopid material to Otto Kröber (1882-1969), who was the then leading expert on the family, and who reported records from Corsica in several of his taxonomic works without giving a source (KRÖBER 1915-1939). All of the material held by Kröber was destroyed during the 2nd World War and any material which he may have had on loan at that time would most likely have been destroyed along with his

own collection. On the other hand, the species listed by KRÖBER (1915-1939) for Corsica differ somewhat from those reported by KUNTZE (1916) (see table I). VILLENEUVE (1909), BECKER (1922), SÉGUY (1928, 1930), LYNEBORG (1962) and, more recently, MARTINEZ (2022b) also mention single additional conopid records from Corsica. In most of these only “Corsica” is given as location, with no additional details. The aim of this work is therefore to add recent and more detailed records of some conopid species from Corsica and, in addition, a critical checklist of the Conopidae recorded from Corsica is also presented.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Specimens were collected within the framework of the most recent edition of the *La Planète Revisitée (Our Planet Reviewed)* series of surveys (TOUROULT *et al.*, 2023). The terrestrial part of this survey was focused on forests since these are the most representative habitat type on the island and cover most of its inland surface. The survey was conducted over two years, with an investigation commencing in 2019 in four different locations in the Alta Rocca region in the south of the island, and two locations in the Tartagine region in the northwest. A suite of pan-traps was set out from April 2019 until April 2020 in the former region, and in both years invertebrate experts also visited the two regions to carry out additional inventories. In 2019, a team of 12 researchers investigated four different forest types in the Alta Rocca region, comprising: (i) a dry oak forest at Serra di Scopamène - Sorbollano (Campu di Bonza, 950 m a.s.l.); (ii) a north facing pine forest remnant at Zona (Samulaghia, 1300 m); (iii) a moderately dry beech forest at Zicavo (Ponte di Valpine, 1245 m) and; (iv) maple and mountain ash pockets on hills in the ‘pozzine’ landscape (i.e. alpine bog, often with deep pools, highly characteristic of Corsica) at Sera di Scopamène (Castellu d’Ornucciu, 1625 m). In each of these four locations, at least four sampling sites were selected in which five blue, five white and five yellow pan-traps were operational at soil surface level for four days at the end of June 2019. At each location, at least one forest site, one river-bank site and one seepage were included within the study. All specimens were stored in alcohol in the collection of the Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). The nomenclature is adopted from STUKE (2017) and the identifications are based on the works of CHVÁLA (1961 – *Conops*; 1965 – *Melanosoma*), MEI & STUKE (2008 – *Zodion*), STUKE (2002 – *Sicus*; 2006 – *Thecophora*; 2014 – *Merziella*; 2016 – *Physocephala*), and STUKE & CLEMENTS (2008 – *Myopa*). Males of the *Thecophora atra*-group *sensu* STUKE (2006) cannot be identified to species level at present but very probably all belong to *T. atra* as do all of the captured females.

RESULTS

In total, 58 specimens belonging to nine species of Conopidae were identified in the recent studies.

Genus *Conops* Linnaeus, 1758

Conops (Conops) vitellinus Loew, 1847

Material examined. – 1 ♀, 13.X.2020, Palasca [42.657°N 9.074°E], leg. Romain Le Divelec; 1 ♂, 15.X.2020, Palasca, Agriates, Cruschininca, prairie paturée (= prairie pasture), *Inula viscosa* dominated [42.656°N 9.077°E], 70 m, leg. Claire Villemant.

Genus *Melanosoma* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1853

Melanosoma bicolor (Meigen, 1824)

Material examined. – 1 ♀, 3.VII.2019, Mausoléo, forêt de Melaja, junipéraie (= juniper scrub, with thistles, briars, pines) [42.504°N 9.005°E], 707 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♂ 1 ♀,

17.VI.2020, Ogliastro [42.813°N 9.338°E], leg. Thomas Lebard & Marie Canut; 1 ♀, 28.VI.2019, Samulaghia (pines, alders): reservoir [41.769°N 9.223°E], 1142 m, leg. Claire Villemant.

Genus *Merziella* Stuke, 2014

Merziella longirostris (Lyneborg, 1962)

Material examined. – 1 ♂, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, marshy seepage in dry fir (= fir plantation) forest [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1244 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, marshy seepage in dry fir forest [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1244 m, leg. Marc Pollet.

Genus *Myopa* Fabricius, 1775

Myopa testacea (Linnaeus, 1767)

Material examined. – 1 ♂, 22.II-6.VI.2020, Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, maquis (= dense, mainly evergreen dry scrublands) [41.770°N 9.125°E], 890 m, leg. Eddy Poirier, Rémy Poncet & Julien Touroult.

Genus *Physocephala* Schiner, 1861

Physocephala rufipes (Fabricius, 1781)

Material examined. – 1 ♀, 22.V.2021, Ghisonaccia [42.032°N 9.459°E], 0 m, leg. Thomas Lebard; 1 ♂, 13.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.666°N 9.219°E], leg. Thomas Lebard & Marie Canut.

Physocephala vittata (Fabricius, 1794)

Material examined. – 1 ♂, 16.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.717°N 9.221°E], leg. Thomas Lebard & Marie Canut.

Genus *Sicus* Scopoli, 1763

Sicus ferrugineus (Linnaeus, 1761)

Material examined. – 1 ♂, 25.V.2021, Bura, Chisa [41.924°N 9.263°E], leg. Bernardo Santos; 1 ♀, 23.V.2021, Porto-Vecchio [41.575°N 9.344°E], leg. Bernardo Santos; 1 ♀, 13.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.679°N 9.223°E], leg. Thomas Lebard & Marie Canut; 1 ♀, 23.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène et Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, in holm oak forest [41.772°N 9.121°E], 950 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 26-30.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène, Castellu d'Ornucciu, in shady sites along stream in pozzine landscape [41.833°N 9.150°E], 1568 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 26-30.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène, Castellu d'Ornucciu, in shady sites along stream in pozzine landscape [41.833°N 9.150°E], 1568 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♂, 20.V.2021, Zonza, Lavu Santu (SE of lake) [41.706°N 9.398°E], leg. Bernardo Santos; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, in dry fir forest [41.762°N 9.228°E], 1209 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♂, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, marshy seepage in dry fir forest [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1244 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, on dry rocks near seepage in fir forest [41.762°N 9.227°E], 1208 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♂, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, on rocky seepage in fir forest (at edge of forest) [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1231 m, leg. Marc Pollet.

Genus *Thecophora* Rondani, 1845

Thecophora atra (Fabricius, 1775)

Material examined. – 1 ♀, 24.V.2021, Portivechju, Lavu Santu, sparse Mediterranean grassland vegetation with open pebbly spots [41.926°N 9.396°E], 43 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 2 ♀, 28.VI.2019, Samulaghia (pines, alders): reservoir [41.769°N 9.223°E], 1142 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♀, 15-27.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.664°N 9.197°E], 260 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 2 ♀, 23-27.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène et Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, holm oak forest clearing [41.768°N 9.125°E], 928 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♀, 23-27.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène et Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, on banks of river in oak forest [41.767°N 9.117°E], 845 m, leg.

Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 22.II-6.VI.2020, Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, maquis [41.770°N 9.125°E], 890 m, leg. Eddy Poirier, Rémy Poncet & Julien Touroult; 2 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Bocca di Fumicosa, fir [41.761°N 9.227°E], 1247 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Bocca di Fumicosa, fir [41.763°N 9.230°E], 1363 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, marshy seepage in dry fir forest [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1244 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♀, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, on rocky seepage in fir forest (edge of forest) [41.750°N 9.217°E], 1231 m, leg. Marc Pollet.

Thecophora sp.

Material examined. – 1 ♂, 22.VI.2020, Asco [42.399°N 8,923°E], 1400 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 1 ♂, 16-21.VI.2020, Oletta, Grèves [42.653°N 9.293°E], 7 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 3 ♂, 16-21.VI.2020, Oletta, prairie fleurie (= flower-rich grasslands) [42.652°N 9.295°E], 7 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 4 ♂, 2-5.VII.2019, Olmi-Cappella, Tartagine, forest house, old wood-orchard (apple, plum, holm oak, ash, bramble) [42.493°N 8,992°E], 785 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 3 ♂, 28.VI.2019, Samulaghia (pines, alders): reservoir [41.769°N 9.223°E], 1142 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♂, 15-27.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.664°N 9.197°E], 260 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 1 ♂, 14-27.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.663°N 9.201°E], 260 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 1 ♂, 13-27.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.665°N 9.209°E], 270 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 2 ♂, 15-27.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.664°N 9.197°E], 260 m, leg. Romain Le Divelec; 1 ♂, 23-27.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène et Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, on banks of river in oak forest [41.767°N 9.117°E], 845 m, leg. Marc Pollet; 1 ♂, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Bocca di Fumicosa, fir (in the soil) [41.763°N 9.230°E], 1363 m, leg. Claire Villemant; 1 ♂, 24-28.VI.2019, Zonza, Samulaghia, in dry fir forest [41.762°N 9.228°E], 1209 m, leg. Marc Pollet.

Genus *Zodion* Latreille, 1797

Zodion cinereum (Fabricius, 1794)

Material examined. – 1 ♀, 13.VI.2020, Santo-Pietro-di-Tenda [42.666°N 9.219°E], leg. Thomas Lebard & Marie Canut; 1 ♂, 23-27.VI.2019, Serra di Scopamène et Sorbollano, Campu di Bonza, in brook-bed in oak forest [41.767°N 9.117°E], 934 m, leg. Marc Pollet.

Twenty-five species of Conopidae are previously recorded from Corsica, in 17 publications (table I). Of these, *Leopoldius signatus* (Wiedemann in Meigen, 1824), *Physocephala truncata* (Loew, 1847), *Myopa polystigma* Rondani, 1857, *M. testacea* (Linnaeus, 1767) and *Thecophora cinerascens* (Meigen, 1804) are doubtful records either because closely related species were not adequately distinguished at the time when the records were published (e.g. *L. signatus*, *M. polystigma*, *M. testacea*, *T. cinerascens*) or because the interpretation of the taxon has subsequently changed (*P. truncata*). Of these five species, only *M. testacea* could be verified recently.

DISCUSSION

Amongst the newly collected material only *Merziella longirostris*, *Physocephala rufipes* and *Zodion cinereum* have not previously been published for Corsica. Records of *Myopa testacea* published prior to the revision of CHVÁLA (1965) cannot be accepted because other similar species may not have been distinguished. This species is now verified by recent material, however. In total, some 28 species of Conopidae are recorded from Corsica to date, of which only nine species have been found recently. Because of their very restricted range, however, some conopid species may have local populations which are easily overlooked. There are several additional species which could be expected to occur on Corsica, e.g. in the genera *Dalmannia* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, *Myopa*, *Physocephala* or *Thecophora*. The faunistic knowledge of Conopidae in Corsica is therefore still at a very early stage.

Table I. – List of Conopidae published from Corsica so far. Doubtful records are marked with a “?”.

1. <i>Conops ceriaeformis</i> Meigen, 1824	MARTINEZ (2022b, data in e-mail from X.2022: 1 ♀, 26.VIII.1975, Porto-Vecchio, leg, det. & coll. M. Martinez)
2. <i>Conops flavipes</i> Linnaeus, 1758	KRÖBER (1927)
3. <i>Conops insignis</i> Loew, 1848	KUNTZE (1913)
4. <i>Conops quadrifasciatus</i> De Geer, 1776	KRÖBER (1916c)
5. <i>Conops silaceus</i> Wiedemann, 1824	KUNTZE (1913), MARTINEZ (2022b)
6. <i>Conops strigatus</i> Wiedemann, 1824	KRÖBER (1916c)
7. <i>Leopoldius coronatus</i> (Rondani, 1857)	MARTINEZ (2022b, data in e-mail from X.2022: 1 ♂, 30.VIII.1975, Porto-Vecchio, leg, det. & coll. M. Martinez)
? <i>Leopoldius signatus</i> (Wiedemann, 1824)	KUNTZE (1913)
8. <i>Physocephala chrysorrhoea</i> (Meigen, 1824)	KRÖBER (1915a), KUNTZE (1913), SÉGY (1930)
9. <i>Physocephala pusilla</i> (Meigen, 1804)	KRÖBER [1915a, as <i>lacera</i> (MEIGEN, 1824)], KUNTZE (1913)
10. <i>Physocephala rufipes</i> (Fabricius, 1781)	present paper
? <i>Physocephala truncata</i> (Loew, 1847)	KUNTZE (1913)
11. <i>Physocephala variegata</i> (Meigen, 1824)	KRÖBER (1915a)
12. <i>Physocephala vittata</i> (Fabricius, 1794)	KUNTZE (1913), present paper
13. <i>Dalmannia aculeata</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	KRÖBER (1915c)
14. <i>Melanosoma bicolor</i> (Meigen, 1824)	KRÖBER (1915b), KUNTZE (1913), MARTINEZ (2023), present paper
15. <i>Merziella longirostris</i> (Lyneborg, 1962)	present paper
16. <i>Myopa buccata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	KRÖBER (1916a)
17. <i>Myopa fasciata</i> Meigen, 1804	KRÖBER (1916a)
18. <i>Myopa pellucida</i> Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830	STUKE & KEHLMAIER (2008)
? <i>Myopa polystigma</i> Rondani, 1857	SÉGY (1928)
19. <i>Myopa testacea</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)	KRÖBER (1916a), present paper
20. <i>Sicus ferrugineus</i> (Linnaeus, 1761)	KRÖBER (1927), KUNTZE (1913), MARTINEZ (2023), STUKE & KEHLMAIER (2008), present paper
21. <i>Thecophora atra</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	KRÖBER (1939), KUNTZE (1913), present paper
? <i>Thecophora cinerascens</i> (Meigen, 1804)	KRÖBER [1916b, as <i>pusilla</i> (Meigen, 1824)], KUNTZE [1913, as <i>pusilla</i> (Meigen, 1824)]
22. <i>Thecophora distincta</i> (Wiedemann, 1824)	VILLENEUVE (1909, as <i>melanopa</i> Rondani, 1857), BECKER (1922, as <i>melanopa</i> Rondani, 1857), KRÖBER [1916b, as <i>distincta</i> (Wiedemann, 1824) and as <i>melanopa</i> Rondani, 1857], KUNTZE [1913, as <i>distincta</i> (Wiedemann, 1824) and as <i>melanopa</i> Rondani, 1857], LYNEBORG (1962), MARTINEZ (2023)
23. <i>Thecophora fulvipes</i> (Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830)	KRÖBER [1916b, as <i>sundewalli</i> (Zetterstedt, 1844)]
24. <i>Zodion cinereum</i> (Fabricius, 1794)	present paper

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