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Two remarkable species of *Rachispoda* Lioy (Diptera, Sphaeroceridae) new to Switzerland

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Two rare species of *Rachispoda* Lioy (Diptera, Sphaeroceridae), *R. segem* Roháček and *R. uniseta* Roháček are newly recorded from Switzerland and their distribution and ecology is briefly discussed.

Keywords: Diptera, Sphaeroceridae, *Rachispoda segem*, *Rachispoda uniseta*, first records, Switzerland.

INTRODUCTION

The sphaerocerid fauna of Switzerland is fairly well known, with 108 out of nearly 260 European species listed in Papp (1998) and Roháček (2004). The genus *Rachispoda* Lioy is poorly represented, with only the following 5 species enumerated – *R. fuscipennis* (Haliday, 1833), *R. limosa* (Fallén, 1820), *R. lutosa* (Stenhammar, 1855), *R. lutosoidea* (Duda, 1938), and *R. varicornis* (Strobl, 1900) – as *Leptocera* in Papp 1998; as *Rachispoda* in Roháček 2004. This low number is doubtlessly due to under-investigation, as 33 species are known from Europe (Roháček 2004), of which 19 species have been recorded from neighbouring Italy (Munari 1995) and 13 from Germany (Roháček & Buck 1999). Papp (1998) predicted that numerous additional species of *Rachispoda* should eventually be found in Switzerland.

It is therefore of interest to record two recently described, poorly known and rarely collected species of *Rachispoda* for the first time from Switzerland.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens were amongst material collected by Dr. Bernhard Merz and sent to me for identification. They are deposited in the collections of the Natural History Museum, Geneva, except for one specimen of *R. uniseta* which is in the author's collection.

RESULTS

Material examined

Rachispoda segem (Roháček, 1991): Switzerland: Geneva, 390 m, Russin, Les Baillets (Allondon), 24 March 2003, 1 ♂, leg. B. Merz.

Rachispoda uniseta (Roháček, 1991): Switzerland: Geneva, 415 m, Bernex, Chante Merle, 3 April 2005, 2 ♂♂, leg. B. Merz; Geneva, 420 m, Bernex, Bois de Carabot, 29 April 2005, 1 ♂, leg. B. Merz.

DISCUSSION

R. segem is a Palaearctic species which is still only known from the type series collected in Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Spain (Roháček 1991; Roháček *et al.* 2001). Its discovery in Switzerland, whilst significant, is therefore not surprising. Its name is an anagram of the closely related Afghan species *Rachispoda meges* (Papp, 1978).

Very little is known of its biology, but the type series was swept from shady river banks (Roháček 1991). Before Roháček (1991) clarified its true status, the species had been misidentified as *Leptocera (Rachispoda) cilifera* (Rondani, 1880) by authors.

R. uniseta is another Palaearctic species hitherto only known from the type series of 3 males collected in North Africa (Tunisia and Morocco) (Roháček 1991; Roháček *et al.* 2001). The female remains unknown. This first record from Europe indicates that the species is more widely distributed than previously thought. Nothing is known of its biology, but one male paratype was collected from the riparian zone of a river.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Zwei seltene Arten von *Rachispoda* (Diptera, Sphaeroceridae), *R. segem* und *R. uniseta*, werden hier für die Schweiz gemeldet und ihre Verbreitung und Biologie werden kurz diskutiert.

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