

# Fungus-gnats from the Faroes

(Diptera, Mycetophilidae)

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Fungus-gnats were trapped at four localities on the island of Streymoy, the Faroes in the period from July 4th to November 26th, 1990. A total of 18 species were captured. Five of these were unrecorded from the Faroes, viz. *Mycomya tenuis* (Walker, 1856), *Speolepta leptogaster* (Winnertz, 1863), *Boletina gripha* Dziedzicki, 1885, *Exechia fusca* (Meigen, 1804), and *Trichonta* sp.

All hitherto recorded species were recaptured, with the possible exception of *Macrocera stigma* Curtis, 1837 and *Exechia spinigera* Winnertz, 1863, the latter record probably being based on a misidentification of *Exechia spinuligera* Lundström, 1912. The Faroese fauna of fungus-gnats now comprises 18 species.

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## Introduction

The Faroe Islands consists of 18 small islands situated in the North Atlantic at approx. 62°N, 7°W, about 675 km W of Norway, 300 km NW of Shetland, and 450 km SE of Iceland. The climate is Atlantic with frequent and strong winds, much rainfall (280 rainy days), mild winters, and cool summers. The temperatures of the warmest (August) and coldest (February) months are 11.1°C and 4.1°C, respectively (Bengtson, 1981). The vegetation is greatly affected by farming and sheep-grazing, and is dominated by grass heath. Natural shrub- and woodland are completely absent. According to Bengtson (1981) the biota is almost entirely West European.

The Faroese fauna of Mycetophilidae has previously been treated by Engel (1915) and Pedersen (1971). Engel (1915) listed seven species. Pedersen (1971) accepted only two of these, and added eleven species.

## Materials and methods

The material comprises a total of 377 speci-

mens and was trapped with malaisetents and lighttraps at four localities on the Faroe island Streymoy (Table 1). The trapping period ranges from July 4th to November 26th 1990. The traps were emptied at irregular intervals. Due to strong winds and heavy rainfall there were periodic problems with the traps. All traps were located near running water. The material is preserved in alcohol and deposited at the Museum of Zoology, University of Bergen.

## Results

Species marked with an asterisk have not previously been recorded from the Faroes.

*Macrocera* sp. - Kvivik, 1♂ 04.-08.vii. and 1♂ 08.-13.vii.

*Mycomya lambi* Edwards, 1941. - A total of 68 males and 11 females were taken at all four localities from the start to ultimo October.

\**Mycomya tenuis* (Walker, 1856). - Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 08.-15.viii.

*Sciophila nigronitida* Landrock, 1925. - Kvivik, 1♂ 29.viii.-03.ix.

Table 1. The four trapping localities on the Faroese island Streymoy, with corresponding trapping periods.

No.	Locality	Method	Trapping period
1	Kvivik	Malaisentent	04.vii.-12.x.1990
2	Kaldbak	Malaisentent	17.vii.-15.ix.1990
3	Nordradalur, Stidin	Lighttrap	08.vii.-26.xi.1990
4	Nordradalur, Nipa	Lighttrap	08.vii.-26.xi.1990

\**Speolepta leptogaster* (Winnertz, 1863). - Kvivik, 1♂ 04.-08.vii. and 1♂ 13.-17.vii.

*Boletina dubia* (Meigen, 1804). - Kvivik, 1♂ 04.-08.vii., 2♂♂ 29.viii.-03.ix., 3♂♂ 03.-09.ix. and 2♂♂ 09.-12.ix.; Nordradalur, Stidin, 1♂ 08.-15.viii., 1♂ 29.viii.-09.ix., 1♂ 23.ix.-14.x. and 1♂ 14.-23.x.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 09.-22.ix.

\**Boletina griffa* Dziedzicki, 1885. - Kvivik, 1♂ 27.vii.-03.viii.; Nordradalur, Stidin, 1♂ 23.ix.-14.x.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 23.ix.-14.x.

*Boletina trivittata* (Meigen, 1818). - Kvivik, 1♂ 29.viii.-03.ix.

*Rymosia fasciata* (Meigen, 1804). - Kvivik, 1♂ 22.-26.vii.; Kaldbak, 1♂ 24.viii.-03.ix. and 1♀ 03.-15.ix.

*Exechia frigida* (Boheman, 1865). - Kvivik, 1♂ 04.-08.vii., 1♂ 22.-26.vii., 1♂ 29.vii.-03.viii., 2♂♂ 29.viii.-03.ix. and 2♂♂ 03.-09.ix.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 23.ix.-14.x.

\**Exechia fusca* (Meigen, 1804). - Kvivik, 1♂ 03.-09.ix.

*Exechia nigra* Edwards, 1925. - Kvivik, 1♂ and 1♀ 27.vii.-03.viii.; Kaldbak, 1♂ 31.vii.-07.viii., 1♂ and 2♀♀ 24.viii.-03.ix.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 28.viii.-07.ix., 1♀ 09.-26.xi.

*Exechia spinuligera* Lundström, 1912. - Kvivik, 1♂ 17.-21.vii., 1♂ 29.vii.-03.viii. and 1♂ 03.-09.ix.; Kaldbak, 1♂ 14.-20.viii.; Nordradalur, Stidin, 2♂♂ 23.ix.-14.x.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ 09.-26.xi.

*Allodia lugens* (Wiedemann, 1817). - Kvivik, 1♂ 27.vii.-03.viii.; Nordradalur, Stidin, 1♂ 23.ix.-14.x. and 2♂♂ 14.-23.x.; Nordradalur, Nipa, 1♂ and 1♀ (?) 09.-26.xi.

*Brevicornu griseicolle* (Staeger, 1840). - Kvivik, 1♂ 13.-17.vii., 1♂ 22.-26.vii., 2♂♂ 27.vii.-03.viii. and 1♂ 07.-13.viii.; Kaldbak, 1♂ 14.-20.viii.

*Brevicornu sericoma* (Meigen, 1830). - This seems

to be the most common species at all four localities. In addition to the 99 males, most of the 102 unspecified females of *Brevicornu* probably belongs to this species. The species occurred throughout the period.

\**Trichonta* sp. - Kvivik, 1♀ 29.viii.-03.ix.

*Mycetophila fungorum* (De Geer, 1776). - A total of 10♂♂ and 15♀♀ were taken at all four localities from the start to ultimo October.

## Discussion

Pedersen (1971) reports 3 males and 1 female of *Macrocera stigma* Curtis, 1837 as the only Faroese species of *Macrocera*. Although both our specimens of *Macrocera* are males, the key presented by Hutson, Ackland and Kidd (1980) gives no conclusive result. Two other *Macrocera* species, *M. nigropicea* Lundström, 1906 and *M. vittata* Meigen, 1830, are reported from Iceland by Nielsen et al. (1954). According to Soós & Papp (1988) *M. nigropicea* is an eastern species recorded from Finland and the USSR, whereas *M. stigma* and *M. vittata* both are widespread in North, West and Central Europe.

There are no previous records of *Trichonta* from the Faroes. The single female of *Trichonta* has lost both hind legs, so the key presented by Gagné (1981) could not be used.

There seems to be much confusion about the closely related species *Exechia spinuligera* Winnertz, 1863 and *E. spinuligera* Lundström, 1912. Lundström (1912) described *E. spinuligera* and *E. spinuligera* f. *borealis*. The latter has been synonymized with *E. spinuligera*, whereas *E. spinuligera* is a valid species. However, both Landrock (1927, 1940)

and Séguy (1940) synonymized the species without taking into consideration the varieties. Pedersen (1971) reports *E. spinigera* from the Faroes, referring to Landrock (1940) and Séguy (1940). Using Lundström (1912), we found all the present specimens to belong to *E. spinuligera* which according to Soós & Papp (1988) occurs both in Iceland and in the British Isles. This species is also captured in Norway. *E. spinigera* on the other hand appears to be absent both in Norway, in Denmark, in the British Isles and in Iceland (Soós & Papp, 1988). It thus seem reasonable to suppose that Pedersen's *E. spinigera* is in fact *E. spinuligera*, but a closer examination of the material is needed to clarify the problem.

Pedersen (1971) mentions six species recorded by Engel (1915) and not recaptured in his study. Engel's material is regarded lost, and only one of his species, *Rymosia fasciata* (Meigen, 1804) was accepted by Pedersen due to the "excellent drawing of the male genitalia" given by Engel. This conclusion is strengthened by our record of this species. Identifications of the remaining 5 species listed by Engel (1915) were based on females only. Of these, *Brachypeza (P.) obscura* Winnertz, 1863, is accepted as a Faroese species by Soós & Papp (1988) despite that it is marked with a question mark in Engel (1915) and rejected by Pedersen (1971).

## Dansk sammendrag

På Færøerne, nærmere betegnet Streymoy (Strømø), blev der igennem sommer- og efterårsperioden i 1990 indfanget svampemyg (Diptera, Mycetophilidae) med malaise- og lysfælde på 4 lokaliteter. Der blev ialt registreret 18 arter, hvoraf 5 ikke er omtalt fra Færøerne før. Disse er *Mycomya tenuis* (Walker, 1856), *Speolepta leptogaster* (Winnertz, 1863), *Boletina gripha* Dziedzicki, 1885, *Exechia fusca* (Meigen, 1804) og *Trichonta* sp. Bortset fra muligvis to arter, *Macrocera stigma* Curtis, 1837 og *Exechia spinigera* Winnertz, 1863, blev alle tidligere kendte færøske

svampemygarter genfanget. *Exechia spinigera* Winnertz, 1863 er blevet nærmere diskuteret, da denne art tidligere kunne være blevet forvekslet med *Exechia spinuligera* Lundström, 1912. Den færøske svampemygfau- na omfatter herefter mindst 18 arter.

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