ON THE IDENTITY AND SYNONYMY OF TWO SPECIES FROM 
MERODON RUFICORNIS MEIGEN GROUP 
(DIPTERA: SYRPHIDAE) 

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Accessible types of some Merodon Meigen, 1803 species from Strobl’s, Rondani’s and 
Meigen’s Diptera collections were studied, and the current status of the names studied is given. 
Three new synonyms are proposed: Merodon recurvus Strobl, 1898 = M. ruficornis Meigen, 
1822; M. strobli Bradescu, 1986 = M. ruficornis Meigen, 1822; M. crymensis Paramonov, 
1925 = M. trebevicensis Strobl, 1900 stat. nov. Lectotype of Merodon ruficornis Meigen, 1822 
is designated here.

KEY WORDS: Syrphidae, Merodon ruficornis group, synonymy

INTRODUCTION

Merodon Meigen, 1803 is one of the largest hoverflies genera in the 
Palaeartic region, with approximately 150 species (HURKMANS, 1993). It is wide-
ly distributed over the Palaeartic and Ethiopian regions. Based on the facts about 
reared larvae, it can be assumed that larvae of all Merodon species develop in 
bulbs or rhizomes of monocotyledones.

The last comprehensive revision of 11 monophyletic species group of this 
genus, by HURKMANS (1993), deals with 61 species. The revision of some 
Merodon names in the present paper is a preliminary work to the forthcoming 
second part of Merodon revision (HURKMANS et al., manuscript).
According to Hurkmans (unpublished manuscript), ruficornis group consists of seven species: Merodon armipes Rondani, 1843, M. crymensis Paramonov, 1925, M. hoplitis Hurkmans, manuscript name, M. loewi Van der Goot, 1981, M. planiceps Loew, 1862, M. portschinsky Stackelberg, 1924 and M. ruficornis Meigen, 1822. All these species are grouped together mainly by structure of male hind legs (Figs. 5 - 8): trochanter 3 with long spine, femur 3 often with a protuberance ventrally, tibia 3 with apical spur(s); and male genitalia (Figs. 1 - 4) with dorsal surstyle lobe (Fig. 1: a) curved and dorsally aligned.

Hurkmans (unpublished manuscript) placed M. strobli Bradescu, 1986 and M. mucronatus var. recurvus Strobl, 1898 as synonyms under M. ruficornis. Dirckx (1994) erected Merodon recurvus Strobl, 1898 from variety of M. mucronatus, and gave it species status. He also implies that M. strobli is conspecific with M. recurvus. Milankov et al. (2002) made key for identification of 5 species from ruficornis group registered on the Balkan Peninsula based both on morphological structures and molecular markers. In their paper, it was confirmed that M. ruficornis and M. recurvus are separated species, despite lack of differences in male terminalia. Specific structure of male hind legs that has great diagnostic value is figured there (Milankov et al., 2002).

A study of the type material from Strobl’s collection deposited at the Benedictine Monastery Admont (Austria), Rondani’s collection in Museo Zoologico de “La Specola”, Firenze (Italy) and Meigen’s collection Musée National d’ Histoire Naturelle, Sorbonne, Paris (France) has made the taxonomic status of few taxa related to Merodon ruficornis Meigen, 1838, more clear.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Strobl’s Diptera collection deposited at the Benedictine Monastery Admont, Austria (BMA), as well as addition material from Museo Zoologico de “La Specola”, Firenze, Italy (MZSF) and Musée National d’ Histoire Naturelle, Sorbonne, Paris, France (MNHN) have been examined to ascertain the status of the Merodon names treated below.

RESULTS, DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Review of the Merodon names treated


ety of *M. mucronatus*, and gave it species status. He considered *M. strobli* Bradescu, 1986 conspecific with *M. recurvus*. We agree that these two taxa belong to the same species, but their names have to be considered as junior synonyms of *M. ruficornis*, as stated in Hurkmans (unpublished manuscript).

Milankov et al. (2002) considered that two taxa named as *M. ruficornis* and *M. recurvus* are separated species. But study of the *M. ruficornis* lectotype has shown that name of *M. recurvus* has to be assigned to *M. ruficornis*. *Merodon ruficornis* sensu Milankov et al. 2002, nec Meigen, 1822 is now considered as an unnamed taxon and its nomenclatural status will be resolved in the future (Figs. 8, 11, 13).

*Merodon ruficornis* Meigen, 1822: 358/359. Lectotype selected by W. Hurkmans (HURKMANS, unpublished manuscript) and here designated: 1G (MNHN, Meigen Coll.). Label: “Merodon ruficornis/meigen”. *Merodon ruficornis* was described from an unspecified number of males and females. Identity: *Merodon ruficornis* is senior valid synonym of *M. recurvus* Strobl, 1898 (see under “recurvus” above) and *M. strobli* Bradescu, 1986.


Synopsis of the names treated in this paper

*Merodon trebevicensis* Strobl, 1900 *stat.nov.*

crymensis Paramonov, 1925 *syn.nov.*

Diagnostic features: Males. Hind femora (Fig. 7) ventrally with large wart-like protuberance on basal third, as long as thorn on trochanter. Hind tibia (Fig. 7) with two apical spurs turn into direction of tarsi.

Females. Fore legs with tarsomeres 1st-3rd brown dorsally, remaining black; hind femora (Fig. 10) ventrally with small bump on basal third, hind tibiae (Fig. 14) with small apical thorn.
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**Merodon ruficornis** Meigen, 1822

*recurvus* Strobl, 1898 *syn nov.*

*strobli* Bradescu, 1986 *syn nov.*

*mucronatus* Rondani, 1857

Diagnostic features: Males. Hind femora (Fig. 5) ventrally with small wart-like protuberance on basal third, shorter than thorn on trochanter. Hind tibia with one distinct spur (Figs. 5, 6) directed to the base of tibia.

Female. Fore legs with tarsomeres 1st-3rd yellow dorsally, remaining black; hind tibiae without apical thorn (Figs. 9, 12).

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REFERENCES


ИДЕНТИТЕТ И СИНОНИМИЈА ДВЕ ВРСТЕ ИЗ MERODON RUFICORNIS MEIGEN ГРУПЕ (DIPTERA: SYRPHIDAE)

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И з в о д

На основу анализе доступног, типског материјала врста рода Merodon Meigen, 1803 из диптеролошких збирки Strobl-a, Rondani-ja и Meigen-a дат је нови таксономски статус студираних имена. Предложена су три нова синонима: Merodon recurvus Strobl, 1898 = M. ruficornis Meigen, 1822; M. strobli Bradescu, 1986 = M. ruficornis Meigen, 1822; M. crymenisis Paramonov, 1925 = M. trebevicensis Strobl, 1900 stat. nov.. Ознакен је лектотип врсте M. ruficornis.