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Additional Species of Iowa Syrphidae

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ADDITIONAL SPECIES OF IOWA SYRPHIDAE

MABEL JAQUES

The family Syrphidae constitutes one of the largest families of the order Diptera. The individuals are medium to large in size and may be bare, pilose, or covered with thick pile. Some species are metallic blue or green in color, while others are vividly marked with yellow bands, spots, or stripes on all parts of the body, but especially on the abdomen.

The distinguishing character of the family is the possession of a spurious vein, located between the 3rd and 4th longitudinal veins and running lengthwise in the wing. This false vein is morphologically a thickening of the wing membrane and has no association with the other veins. All but a few species of Syrphids possess this characteristic spurious vein, and it is found in no other family.

Syrphids are common the world over, and are important in several respects. The adults rank high in importance as pollinators of plants; the larvae are destroyers of plant lice, their value depending not so much on the number of aphids eaten as on the fact that the Syrphid larvae check the reproduction of the aphids.

Sprphids have been collected throughout our state over a period of years. A preliminary list ¹ of the known Iowa species was presented before the Academy last year. Further collecting and study have yielded a number of additional species which are here given. Grateful recognition is extended to Prof. C. L. Fluke of the University of Wisconsin who checked the determinations.

The full list as represented by the species reported last year plus the additions herein made, should be understood to be in no way indicative of the full number of Syrphids likely occurring in Iowa.

Microdon fuscipennis Macq.
Chrysogaster pictipennis Loew.
Ferdinandea nigripes O. S.
Baccha clavatus Fab.
Didea fasciata Macq.
Volucella fasciata Macq.
Volucella vesiculosa Fab.

Eristalis bastardi Macq. Heliophilus laetus Loew. Xylotomima baton Wk. Somula decora Macq. Ceriodes signifera Loew. Ceriodes abbreviata Loew.

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¹ Jaques, Mabel and H. E. A Preliminary List of Iowa Syrphidae. Proceedings of Iowa Academy of Science, Vol. 43: 386, 1936.