

Revision of the West Palaearctic species of the genus *Pales* Robineau-Desvoidy (Diptera: Tachinidae)

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Abstract

A taxonomic revision of the West Palaearctic species of the genus *Pales* Robineau-Desvoidy is presented and the identity of the genus is defined and discussed. *Pales abdita* **sp. nov.** from some localities in the Mediterranean region and *Pales marae* **sp. nov.** from Sardinia are described, illustrated and compared with similar species. A key to the ten known West Palaearctic species of *Pales* is presented. The rare genus *Schembria* Rondani is suggested as the possible sister-group of *Pales* and the male genitalia of the only known species, *S. meridionalis* Rondani, are figured for the first time.

Key words: Diptera, Tachinidae, Goniini, *Pales*, *Schembria*, sister-group, taxonomy, new species, West Palaearctic, identification key

Introduction

The goniine genus *Pales* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830 is widespread throughout the Old World and currently includes approximately 70 species, although the real number is probably much higher. The Afrotropical region accounts for the highest number of species (27) (Crosskey 1980), followed by the Australasian and Oceanian regions with 18, 15 of which are New Zealand endemics (Cantrell & Crosskey 1989); according to a recent estimate by Dugdale (2002), the total number of endemic *Pales* species from New Zealand could be 25. In the Oriental (cf. Crosskey 1976) and Palaearctic (cf. Herting & Dely-Draskovits 1993) regions 7 and 14 species are known today, respectively.

Pales was previously represented in the West Palaearctic subregion by 8 species (Herting 1984; Herting & Dely-Draskovits 1993): *P. cyanea* (Macquart, 1839), endemic to the Canary Islands; *P. exsulans* Tiensuu, 1939, endemic to the Madeira Islands; *P. latifrons*