



The Central Asian *Herina* (Diptera: Ulidiidae), with the description of a new species from Afghanistan

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Abstract

Herina odnosumi **sp. nov.** from Afghanistan is described and illustrated. *Herina odnosumi* **sp. nov.** can be distinguished from all other Old World species by its predominantly reddish yellow body, acute flagellomere 1 and yellow to brown wing pattern. The other Central Asian species, *H. monticola* (Stackelberg, 1945), previously known from a Russian brief original description and a short illustrated note on its taxonomic position in is also redescribed. A key to the two species of *Herina* Robineau-Desvoidy occurring in Central Asia is provided.

Key words: Diptera, Ulidiidae, *Herina*, new species, Afghanistan, Tadjikistan

Introduction

The picture-winged flies (Ulidiidae) are rather common in the Palaearctic Region, including arid areas of Central Asia. *Herina* Robineau-Desvoidy is one of the largest genera of the Old World Ulidiidae with 36 species occurring in the Palaearctic and Oriental Regions, and the Papuan Subregion of the Australasian Region. They were revised and keyed by Merz (1996, 2002) and Kameneva (2006, 2007). Four New World species reviewed by McAlpine (1951) possibly belong to other genera (Kameneva, unpublished data). These papers cover most of the distribution area of the genus, but no comprehensive review of species from the central part of Eurasia has ever been carried out. A new species of *Herina* collected by I. G. Pljushtch in Central Afghanistan is described and keyed, together with a redescription of another little-known species from neighboring Tadjikistan.

Examined specimens were deposited in the collection of the I. I. Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, Kyiv, Ukraine (SIZK) and the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg (ZISP).

Series of photos were taken directly from a dissecting or compound microscope with a Nikon 5200 digital camera and then montaged with the use of CombineZM software (Hadley 2007).

Terminology in descriptive part follows McAlpine (1981).

Herina Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830

Type species: *Herina liturata* Robineau-Desvoidy, 1830, by designation of Hennig (1939).

See Merz (1996, 2002) and Kameneva (2006, 2007) for discussion of the taxonomic position of the genus, diagnosis and description of *Herina*.

Herina monticola (Stackelberg) from Tadjikistan has not been included in the above-mentioned keys to species, and we therefore provide the following key to known species of *Herina* from the Central Asian mountains.