

# First European record of *Psectrosциara* Kieffer, with description of a new species from Greece (Diptera, Scatopsidae)

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## First European record of *Psectrosciara* KIEFFER, with description of a new species from Greece (Diptera, Scatopsidae).

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*Psectrosciara asklepios* n. sp. from Peloponnisos (Southern Greece) is described and figured, being the first European species of the genus. Characters are given to separate the new species from the only other known palaeartic species of *Psectrosciara*.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Psectrosciara* KIEFFER includes very peculiar Scatopsids, easily recognized by their laterally compressed, elongated body. Due to this unusual habitus the genus was placed within family Sciaridae by earlier authors. The genus was redescribed and revised by COOK (1958) who placed it, along with genus *Anapausis*, in a separate subfamily Psectrosciarinae. It includes 24 described species from different parts of the world, especially well represented in the Nearctic, Neotropical and Australian regions. Nothing is known of their biology and immature stages though many nearctic species seem to be restricted to the "more arid western and south-western parts of North America" (COOK, 1965). The only described palaeartic species is *brevistylis* COOK from Iran (Abadan) but SOUZA AMORIM (1982) has studied an undescribed species from Soviet Far East.

During an entomological field trip together with CHRISTOPHE DUFOUR in southern Greece in June 1990, I was surprised to collect 2 specimens belonging to this genus which proved to represent a still unknown species. This first European representative of *Psectrosciara* is described below.

### *Psectrosciara asklepios* n. sp. (Fig. 1–3)

*Type locality.* Greece (Peloponnisos), Argolis: Epidhavirus (archaeological site of the well known theater and complex of temples of Epidaurus).

*Material examined.* Holotype ♂, labelled: GRECE – Péloponnèse, Argolis, J.-P. HAENNI & C. DUFOUR/Epidhavirus, 3 km SW Ligourion, 325 m, 13. VI.1990 St 24/ruines du temple d'Asklepios, végétation rudérale, sur *Onopordum*/S 4082/HOLOTYP *Psectrosciara asklepios* n. sp. ♂, HAENNI, 1990; 1 paratype ♂, same data as holotype. Types deposited in the collections of the Musée d'histoire naturelle, Neuchâtel.

*Etymology.* The new species is named after Asklepios, the ancient greek god of medicine whose temple's ruins in Epidaurus harboured the only known specimens of this species. The name is used as an apposition.

*Diagnosis.* *Ps. asklepios* belongs to the *brunnescens*-group of COOK (1958) with well developed, sclerotized, spiracle-bearing tergite 8. It can easily be distinguished from *brevistylis* COOK (Iran) by its long, broadly club-shaped gonostyles (Fig. 3). On the other hand, the shape of fused tergite 8 and epandrium (Fig. 2) is very different from that of all nearctic species belonging to the same group.

*Description.* Male. 2.3–2.6 mm long; body and legs entirely black, shining, with a short yellowish-white pilosity, longer on last abdominal segment, very sparse on pleurae; thoracic phragma and first abdominal sternite milky white on fresh killed specimens; wings 1.6–1.7 mm long, hyaline with brownish yellow anterior veins and translucent posterior veins; halteres grey, lighter on lower face and stem.

Head elongated, as usual in *Psectrosciara*; antennae 10-segmented, club-shaped; eyes broadly holoptic over antennae.

Thorax much compressed laterally, as usual in this genus.

Wings (Fig. 1) with macrotrichia on all veins and on membrane posteriorly to  $r_{4+5}$ ; membrane densely covered with microtrichia;  $m_1$  very faint basally, but nearly complete; wing ratio:  $c_1/c_2/c_3 = 29/38/20$ ;  $m/m_1m_2 = 28/40$ .

Legs. Fore coxae elongate, nearly as long as femora; all tibiae somewhat club-shaped, especially the hind ones that are strongly swollen in the apical half with a well developed posterior comb of testaceous spines; 1st posterior tarsomere somewhat swollen, as long as 2nd and 3rd together; tarsomeres 1 and 2 of  $p_2$  and  $p_3$  with spinose pilosity below.

Abdomen compressed laterally, elongated, projecting beyond tip of wings; tergite 8 well developed, with a pair of functional spiracles, fused distally with  $t_9$  (epandrium) from which it is separated by a weakly sclerotized zone (Fig. 2); epandrium truncate apically in side view (Fig. 3); no apparent penis visible but there is a weakly sclerotized, sparsely pilose, gradually widening internal tubular structure that follows distally the spermaduct and is traceable till the region of base of gonostyles.

*Distribution.* Only known from the type locality in Peloponnisos, southern Greece.

*Ecology.* The 2 known specimens have been collected on the same flower-head of a thistle-like Compositae belonging to the genus *Onopordum*, among sparse ruderal vegetation inside of the archaeological site of Epidaurus. This flower-head harboured representatives of several species of Diptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, Heteroptera and Thysanoptera, but the *Psectrosciara* were not visible at first, being deeply engaged between or inside of the long flower tubes characteristic of this plant genus. Only after 2 or 3 minutes of searching in flower, they appeared at surface and a single was captured while 1 or 2 others succeeded to escape. The second specimen was caught only the day after at laboratory, when tearing in pieces the collected flower-head.

## DISCUSSION

From the genital structures it appears clearly that *Ps. asklepios* is more closely related to *brevistylis* COOK (Iran), *brunnescens* (BRUNETTI) (Sri Lanka, Seychelles Isl.) and *africana* COOK (South Africa) than to the 5 western North American species of the same group of species which have a much less developed

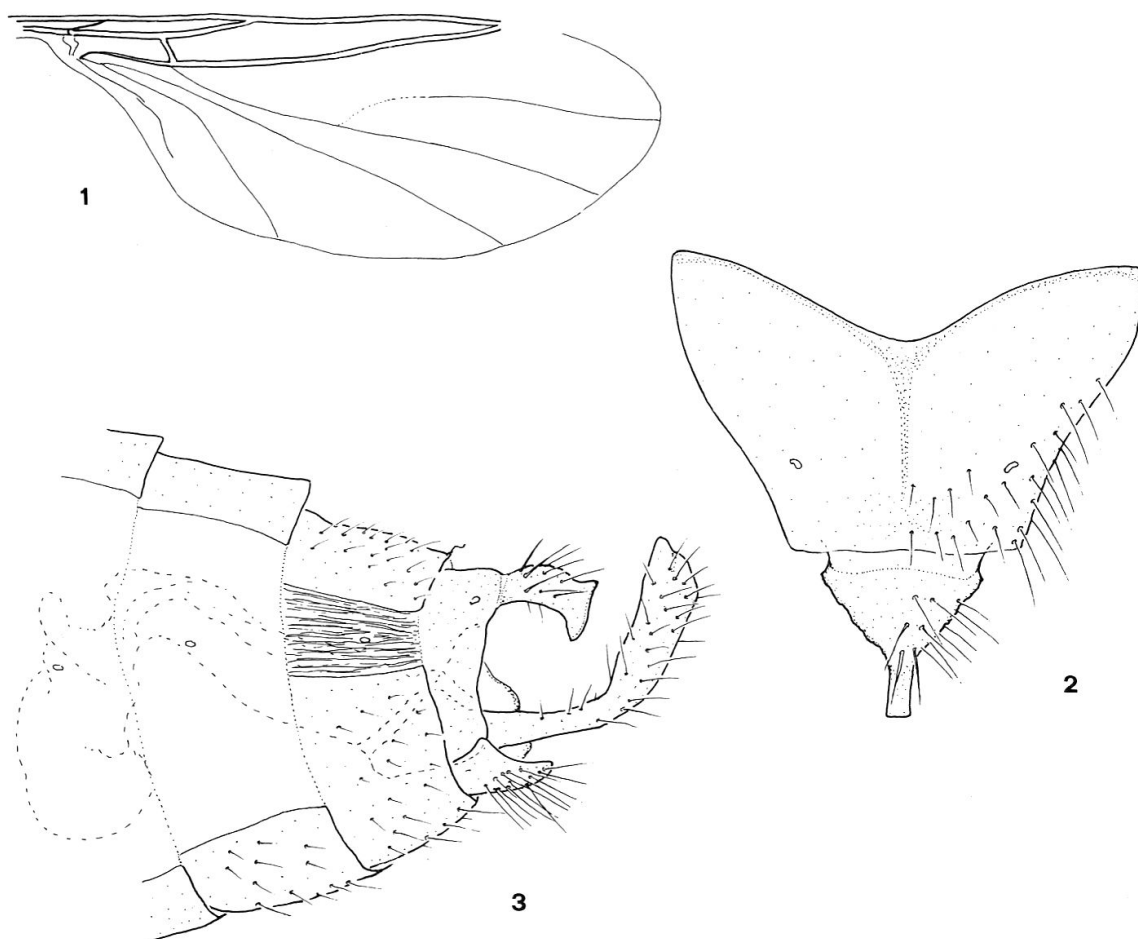


Fig. 1–3. *Psectrosciara asklepios* n. sp. ♂ 1: wing venation; 2: fused tergite 8 and epandrium; 3: genitalia (not dissected, side view).

tergite 8. Few species are known from the Ethiopian and Oriental regions but these areas are probably much richer, though little collected. Southern palaeartic species must also have their origin there.

#### RESUME

Sur la présence du genre *Psectrosciara* KIEFFER en Europe, avec la description d'une nouvelle espèce de Grèce (Diptera, Scatopsidae). – *Psectrosciara asklepios* n. sp., du Péloponnèse, première espèce du genre trouvée en Europe, est décrite et figurée et les caractères la séparant de la seule autre espèce paléarctique connue sont donnés.

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