

99

**BREVICORNU SERENUM (WINNERTZ, 1863) (DIPTERA,
MYCETOPHILIDAE) NEW TO THE BRITISH ISLES,
FROM PETT'S WOOD IN SOUTH-EAST LONDON**

BY PETER J. CHANDLER

(Weston Research Laboratories, 644 Bath Road, Taplow,
Maidenhead, Berks.)

A rather small brownish yellow male fungus gnat, which I obtained by sweeping in Pett's Wood, Chislehurst, Kent, a mixed deciduous woodland in the suburbs of south-east London, on 22nd September 1974, did not run down satisfactorily in the keys of Edwards (1925). It was evidently a member of the genus *Brevicornu* Marshall (sensu stricto), one of the genera segregated from the old composite genus *Allodia* Winnertz sensu Edwards 1925 (= *Allodia* and *Brachycampta* of Winnertz, 1863) but it differed from any of the thirteen species already on the British list in several respects, the most striking being the abbreviated lower branch of the median fork, in which it resembles most species of the genus *Cordyla* Meigen (except *crassicornis* Meigen). It differed from *Cordyla*, however, in its simple palpi and in the other generic characters. Dissection of the hypopygium showed that this had a very characteristic structure different from any known British *Brevicornu* but conforming to the basic plan in this genus.

On reference to the Palaearctic key to the genus *Allodia* by Landrock (1927) the insect was found to run down readily to *A. serena* (Winnertz), which was transferred to *Brevicornu* by Tuomikoski (1966) in his revision of the Tribe Exechiini. It agrees entirely with the descriptions of continental authors in the salient external characteristics. In Edwards' key (1925), *B. serenum* runs to couplet 11 but does not fit any of the species there included well because it has four propleural bristles, the outer scutellars nearly as long as the inner pair and the base of the cubital fork well before the base of r-m.

B. serenum is also paler in colour than most British *Brevicornu*, being mostly brownish yellow bodied; the head and the prescutellar area of the thoracic dorsum are grey dusted. The abdominal tergites are narrowly darkened on the dorsal mid line, only the sixth tergite being more extensively darkened basally, the dark area being triangular and nearly reaching the side margins laterally; the hypopygium is also yellow but the capsule is darkened laterally. The antennae and legs are mainly yellow, the apical sixth of the hind femora darkened. The wings (Fig. 3) are yellow tinged. Wing length 2mm.; body length 3mm.

With respect to the genitalic structure this was figured by Dzierdzicki (reproduced by Landrock, 1927, 1940) from Winnertz' type and by Lundström (1916) from material received by him. Although both of these figures clearly represent the same species to which my Pett's Wood specimen belongs, there are discrepancies between them and both appear inaccurate in certain respects. The figures given here (Figs. 1 and 2) were drawn from the British specimen. The claspers are different from other *Brevicornu* in that both upper and lower claspers have broadly rounded tips; the upper claspers have long bristles apically while the lower claspers are provided with a tuft of hairs on part of their internal face.

99

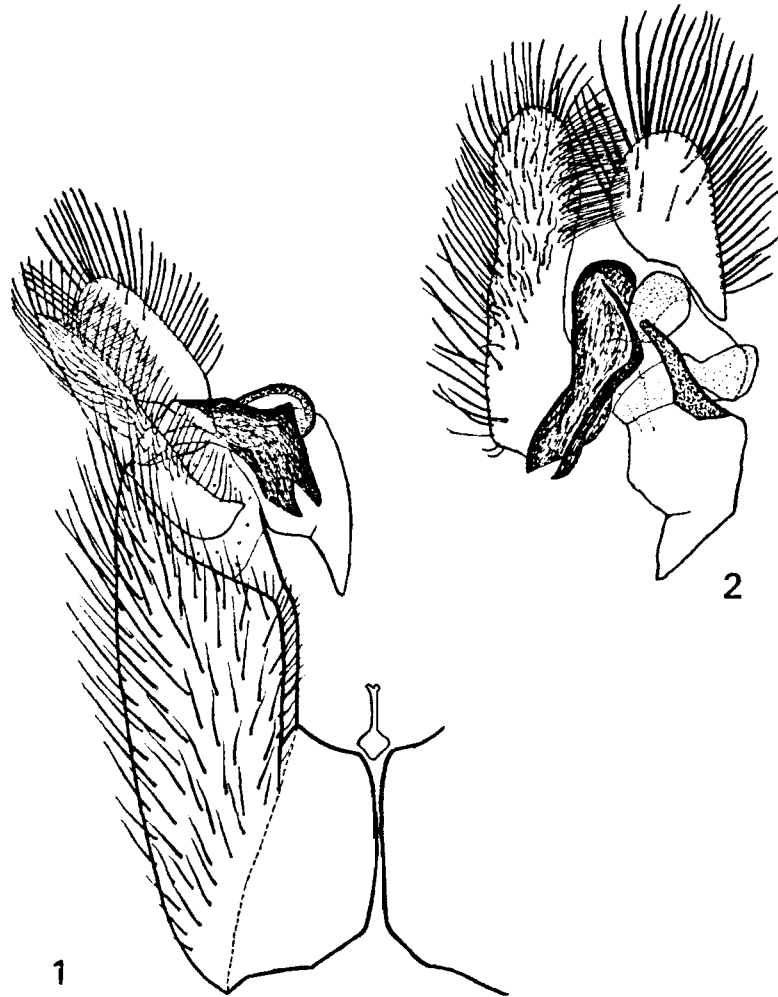


FIG. 1. Ventral view of male hypopygium. FIG. 2. Internal view of left claspers.

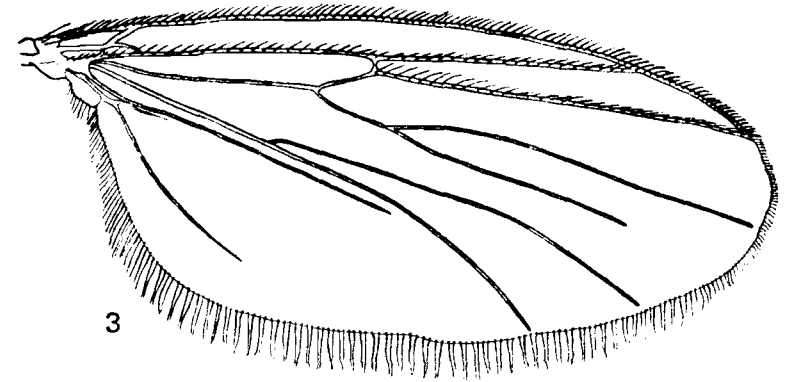


FIG. 3. Wing.

Winnertz (1863) described this species under the name *Brachycampa serena* on a single male collected in woodland in May, somewhere in central Europe, where it is evidently not a common species. Lundström (1916) recorded two males and three females collected by Ujhelyi in Hungary, iv.1913. Landrock (1940) could only refer to one record from Germany. Matile (1964), however, added the species to the French list from the island of Port-Cros (Iles d'Hyeres) off the Mediterranean coast, where it was apparently quite common in damp shady places (8th-15th October).

REFERENCES

- Edwards, F. W., 1925. British Fungus-Gnats (Diptera, Mycetophilidae), with a revised generic classification of the family. *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.*, **1924**: 505-602.
- Landrock, K., 1927. Fungivoridae (Mycetophilidae) in Lindner, E. (Ed.), *Die Fliegen der Paläarktischen Region*, **8**: 1-195. Stuttgart (Schweizerbart).
- Landrock, K., 1940. Pilzmücken oder Fungivoridae in Dahl, F. (Ed.), *Die Tierwelt Deutschlands*, **38**: 1-166.
- Lundström, C., 1916. Neue oder wenig bekannte europäische Mycetophiliden. IV. *Ann. Hist. nat. Mus. Nat. Hung.*, **14**: 72-80.
- Matile, L., 1964. Diptères Fungivorides récoltés dans l'île de Port-Cros (Var). *Cah. des Nat. Bull. N.P.*, n.s. **20**: 5-10.
- Tuomikoski, R., 1966. Generic taxonomy of the Exechiini (Diptera, Mycetophilidae). *Ann. ent. fenn.*, **32**: 159-194.
- Winnertz, J., 1863. Beitrag zu einer Monographie der Pilzmücken. *Verh. zool. bot. Ges. Wien*, **13**: 637-964.