The family Ditomyiidae consists worldwide of about 80 species belonging to 9 genera, mainly occurring in the Southern hemisphere. In Europe the family is represented with 4 species in 2 genera (Symmerus Walker, 1848 Ditomyia Winnertz, 1846). Of these, Ditomyia has a Central European distribution, while Symmerus has a more northerly distribution. According to Munroe (1974) Symmerus is endemic to the Palaearctic region, and Symmerus sensu stricto has not been recorded outside Europe so far.

Symmerus annulatus (Meigen, 1830) is relatively common in Europe compared with Symmerus nobilis Lackschewitz, 1937. S. nobilis is mentioned as rare in Britain by Falk & Chandler (2005). S. annulatus was first recorded from Scandinavia by Zetterstedt (1851) from Esperöd, Sweden, as “Ceroplatus flavus” Zetterstedt, 1851. Little is known about the biology and ecology of these species, but larvae of S. annulatus have been reared from decaying elm wood.

At present the species can only be identified with certainty on characters in the male genitalia. European Ditomyiidae species can be identified with Zaitzev (1978) or Landrock (1940). Munroe (1974) gives a world revision of the genera Symmerus (Palaearctic) and Australosymmerus Freeman, 1954 (Latin-America, Australia and New Zealand).

Contributions to this family in Norway have been scarce. In estimates of the number of each insect family occurring in Norway, Ottesen (1993) suggested that Ditomyiidae most probably has one species in Norway. The family was first recorded from Norway from the lake Østensjøvannet in Oslo municipality (Hansen & Falck 2000). Two males of Symmerus annulatus were reported, from the northern and western part of this area. The present study deals with the genus Symmerus and is based on 19 specimens from 5 localities. The material is kept in the insect collection at
Ditomyiidae (Diptera: Sciaroidea) in Norway

the Natural History Museum, University of Oslo (NHMO). Munroe (1974) was used for identification (see this publication for figures).

THE SPECIES

**Symmerus annulatus** (Meigen, 1830)  
(Map 1, Figure 1)  
Total material: 12 ♂♂ 4♀♀.  


Note: One specimen, caught 18 – 25 June 2004, showed some differentiation in size and color, being significantly smaller and paler. However, the genitalia were similar to the other males.

**Symmerus nobilis** Lackschewitz, 1937  
(Map 2, Figure 2)  
Total material: 2 ♂♂.  


CONCLUDING REMARKS  
This family is rare and relatively unknown in Norway. The *Symmerus* species seems to have
a preference for south facing warm broadleaved forests. According to their limited distribution and habitat requirements should be considered for the Norwegian Red List.

Acknowledgements. We would like to thank Lars Ove Hansen, Natural History Museum, University of Oslo for comments and suggestions to the manuscript. We would also thank Karsten Sund (Nasjonalt senter for insektkartlegging, NHMO) for making photos for this article.

REFERENCES


Zaitzev A.I. 1978. Flies of the family Ditomyiidae (Diptera) from the USSR. Entomolo. Obozr. 57 (3), 668-676.


Received 27 March 2006, accepted 25 April 2006