

**Zeitschrift:** Bulletin de la Société Neuchâteloise des Sciences Naturelles  
**Herausgeber:** Société Neuchâteloise des Sciences Naturelles  
**Band:** 124 (2001)

**Artikel:** On the presence of Dolichopeza (subgenus Oropenza) in the Westpalaearctic (Diptera, Tipulidae)  
**Autor:** Oosterbroek, Pjotr / Dufour, Christophe / Pilipenko, Valentin  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-89557>

#### Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 16.08.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

**ON THE PRESENCE OF *DOLICHOPEZA*  
(SUBGENUS *OROPEZA*) IN THE WESTPALAEARCTIC  
(DIPTERA, TIPULIDAE)**

PJOTR OOSTERBROEK<sup>1</sup>, CHRISTOPHE DUFOUR<sup>2</sup> & VALENTIN PILIPENKO<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Section Entomology, Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam, the Netherlands. *E-mail:* oosterbroek@bio.uva.nl

<sup>2</sup> Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel, 14 rue des Terreaux, CH-2000 Neuchâtel, Switzerland. *E-mail:* christophe.dufour@mnhn.unine.ch

<sup>3</sup> Moscow State University, Department of Biology, Moscow 119899 Russia.  
*E-mail:* vep@mail.ru

**Keywords:** *Oropeza*, Tipulidae, Westpalaearctic, Transpalaearctic disjunctions.

**Résumé:** Sur la présence du genre *Dolichopeza* (sous-genre *Oropeza*) dans la région paléarctique occidentale (Diptera, Tipulidae)

Après avoir été découvert en Italie, le tipulide est-paléarctique *Dolichopeza (Oropeza) modesta* (Savchenko, 1980) est maintenant également connu de Suisse et de la partie centre européenne de la Russie. Il s'agit du seul représentant de ce sous-genre à être connu de la région paléarctique occidentale, et les données provenant de Suisse montrent que cette espèce appartient bien à la faune indigène de ce pays. Les habitats en Suisse et en Russie sont décrits et les premiers sont illustrés par des photographies. Les cas de disjonctions transpaléarctiques chez les tipulides sont brièvement esquissés.

**Abstract**

After having been discovered in Italy, the Eastpalaearctic crane fly species *Dolichopeza (Oropeza) modesta* (Savchenko, 1980) has become known from Switzerland and the Central-European part of Russia as well. It is the only member of the subgenus known from the Westpalaearctic, and the data from Switzerland show that the species is a true inhabitant of that country. The Swiss and Russian habitats are described and the first shown by photographs. Transpalaearctic disjunctions among crane flies are briefly outlined.

INTRODUCTION

The subgenus *Dolichopeza (Oropeza)* Needham is a small taxon with 25 recognized species, distributed in the Nearctic (13 species, BYERS, 1961), Oriental (5 species,

ALEXANDER & ALEXANDER, 1973) and Eastpalaearctic (8 species, OOSTERBROEK & THEOWALD, 1992).

A few years ago, the Eastpalaearctic species *D. (O.) modesta* (Savchenko, 1980), described from the Primorye Region, was found among Italian material collected in August 1974 near Padova by Prof. Alessandro Minelli (OOSTERBROEK & STARY, 1995). The species was recently discovered near Moscow (PILIPENKO, 1997), and is now recorded from Tessin in Switzerland as well.

#### SWISS AND MOSCOW HABITATS

The first Swiss specimens of *D. (O.) modesta* were collected by Willy Geiger in September 1979, along the Tresa river in Tessin. Unfortunately, for 17 years they remained unrecognized among Limoniidae sent for study to Sigitas Podénas in Vilnius, Lithuania. Only in 1996 they were returned with a few other undetermined Tipulidae and recognized as belonging to *Dolichopeza*, subgenus *Oropeza*.

In June 1997, Christophe Dufour returned to the Tresa river, accompanied by Philippe Thorens, in an attempt to collect more specimens and observe the locality. After an hour's search, one male was captured flying in thick vegetation on the riverside bordered with *Tilia*, *Fraxinus*, *Robinia* and *Rubus*. Shortly afterwards, one male and one female were caught along a small, clear tributary of the Tresa, bordered with trees.

The Tresa river, an outflow of the Lake of Lugano, is fast-flowing and remarkable for its high water temperature. It remains unclear whether *D. (O.) modesta* comes from the sidestream only (fig. 1) or if it can also reproduce along the main riverside (fig. 2).

The habitat near the biological station of the Moscow University just outside the city is a stream of 1-1,5 meter wide at the

edge of a *Picea-Betula* forest. The shores of the stream are covered with a dense growth of *Urtica*. The plants are about two meters high and hang over the stream, forming a kind of tunnel. The species occurs only within this tunnel, on a plot of 250-300 meters. The shores of the stream and the stones in it are covered with moss, in which the larvae develop. Adults are on the wing from mid June to mid July, with the peak of activity near the end of June (PILIPENKO, 1997).

#### MATERIAL

##### *Italy*

1 male; VIII.1974; Padova; A. Minelli; Zoological Museum, Amsterdam

##### *Switzerland*

1 male; 1 female; 10-11.IX.1979; Ponte Tresa; 270m; W. Geiger; Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel (MHNN).

1 male; 18.VI.1997; Ponte Tresa, Mad. del Piano/rive de la Tresa; 270m; *Tilia*, *Fraxinus*, *Robinia*, *Rubus*; station 1a; C. Dufour & P. Thorens; MHNN.

1 male; 1 female; 18.VI.1997; CH Ponte Tresa, Mad. del Piano/ruisseau latéral clair; 270m; cordon boisé; station 1b; C. Dufour & P. Thorens; MHNN.

##### *Russia*

All material: Moscow area, Solnechnogorsk region, Chashnikovo (56°02'N 37°12'E): V. Pilipenko; Moscow State University, Department of Biology, Moscow

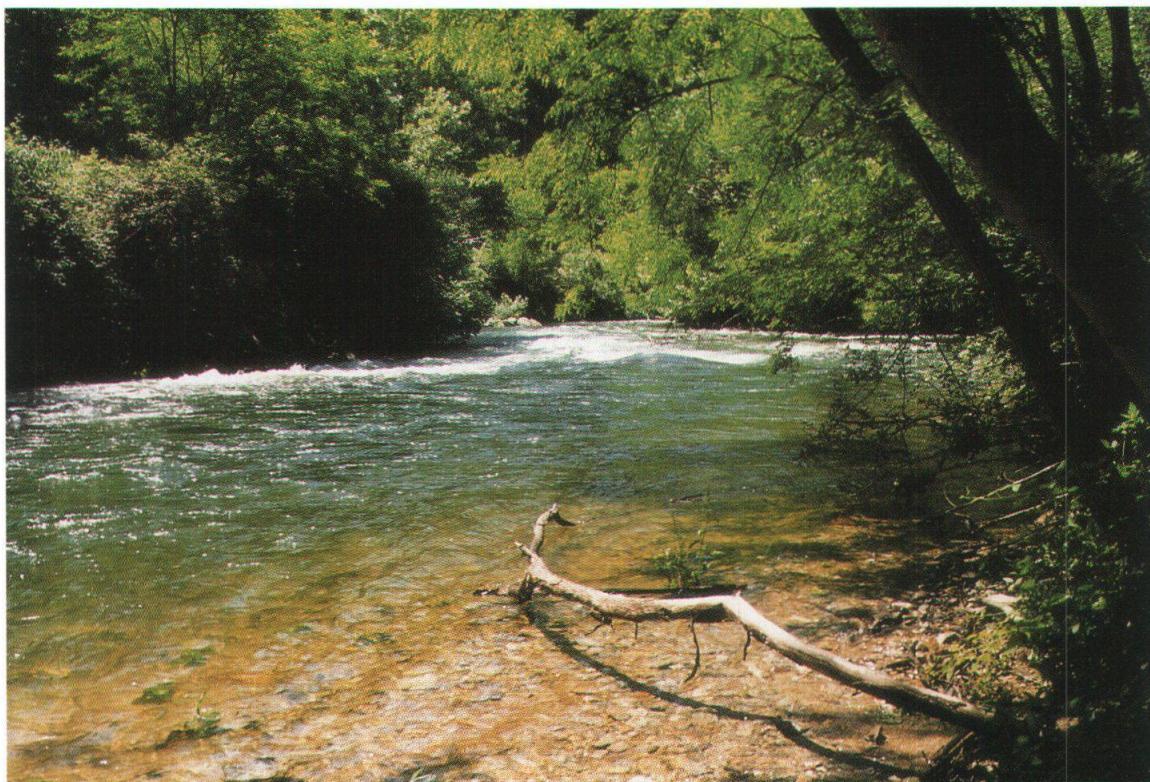
4 male; 1 female; 26.VI.1995; 1 male; 14.VI.1996; 2 female; 25.VI.1996; 1 male; 1 female; 27.VI.1996; 1 male; 15.VII.1997;

#### TRANSPALAEARCTIC DISJUNCTIONS

The fact that the species is present in European Russia, Italy and Switzerland, and has been collected in Switzerland as



**Figure 1:** Habitat of *Dolichopeza (Oropeza) modesta* (Savchenko, 1980) along a tributary of the Tresa river in Tessin (Southern Switzerland).



**Figure 2:** *D. (O.) modesta* was also collected along the main stream of the Tresa river at a short distance from where this view was taken.

well as Russia in more than one season, strongly suggest that *D. (O.) modesta* is a true inhabitant of the Westpalaearctic, possessing a widely disjunct distribution. Among the palaearctic crane flies there are a fair number of species which are distributed more or less continuously throughout the Palaearctic, such as *Nephrotoma cornicina* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *N. scurra* (Meigen, 1818) (for maps see OOSTERBROEK, 1978; TANGELDER, 1984). Species inhabiting mountainous habitats can be widely distributed as well but their ranges are more fragmented, showing a pattern of isolated spots throughout the Palaearctic, always including the central Asiatic mountains (for maps see DUFOUR, 1992).

Widely disjunct patterns, including the western and far-eastern parts of the Palaearctic, are much less common. They are found in six species of crane flies distributed in northern Europe and in only three species from Central Europe. It seems noteworthy that the distributions of these last-mentioned species in all three cases include Switzerland on the one side and Primorye on the other.

Species showing large disjunctions between northern Europe and the eastern Palaearctic are:

*Diogma caudata* Takahashi, 1960 (Cylindrotomidae: Finland and Hokkaido);  
*Erioptera (Erioptera) tordi* Tjeder, 1973 (Limoniiidae: Sweden and Kuril Islands);  
*Ormosia (Oreophila) sootryeni* (Lacksche-

witz, 1935) (Limoniiidae: Norway, Sweden and Primorye, Sakhalin, Kuril Islands, North Korea, Honshu);

*Rhabdomastix (Sacandaga) lapponica* Tjeder, 1936 (Limoniiidae: Norway, Sweden and Chukotka, Kuril islands);

*Prionocera chosenicola* Alexander, 1945 (Tipulidae: Norway and North Korea) (BRODO, 1995);

*Tipula (Yamatotipula) pruinosa stackelbergi* Alexander, 1934 (Tipulidae: Sweden, Finland and Yakutia, Primorye).

Species showing large disjunctions between central Europe and the eastern Palaearctic are:

*Dicranomyia (Idiopyga) megacauda* Alexander, 1924 (Limoniiidae: Switzerland and Primorye, Sakhalin, Kuril islands);

*Tipula (Pterelachisus) apicispina* Alexander, 1934 (Tipulidae: Switzerland, Slovakia, Ukraine and Primorye).

*Dolichopeza (Oropeza) modesta* (Savchenko, 1980) (Tipulidae: Switzerland, Moscow region and Primorye).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to thank Prof. Alessandro Minelli (Padova) for making available the Italian material, Dr. Willy Geiger and Philippe Thorens for their collecting activities in Switzerland, and Prof. George W. Byers (Lawrence) and Dr. Herman de Jong (Amsterdam) for comments on the manuscript.

#### REFERENCES

- ALEXANDER, C.P. & ALEXANDER, M.M. 1973. Tipulidae. *Catalog of the Diptera of the Oriental Region I*: 10-224.
- BRODO, F.A. 1995. Analysis and additions to the crane fly fauna of Finse, South Norway (Diptera: Tipulidae). *Fauna Norvegica* (B) 42: 11-20.

- BYERS, G.W. 1961. The crane fly genus *Dolichopeza* in North America. *Kansas University Science Bulletin* 42: 665-924.
- DUFOUR, C. 1992. High altitude Tipulidae in Switzerland (Diptera, Nematocera). *Acta Zoologica Cracoviensis* 35: 113-134.
- OOSTERBROEK, P. 1978. The western palaearctic species of *Nephrotoma* Meigen, 1803 (Diptera, Tipulidae), part 1. *Beaufortia* 27: 1-137.
- OOSTERBROEK, P. & STARY, J. 1995. Diptera Tipulomorpha. In: MINELLI, A., RUFFO, S. & LA POSTA, S. (eds), *Checklist delle specie della fauna italiana* 63: 1-16. Bologna, Calderini.
- OOSTERBROEK, P. & THEOWALD, BR. 1992. Family Tipulidae. *Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera* 1: 56-178.
- PILIPENKO, V.E. 1997. Occurrence of a crane fly of the subgenus *Oropeza* (Diptera, Tipulidae) in Moscow Province. In: *Diptera (Insecta) in Ecosystems*: 97. St. Petersburg, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (in Russian).
- SAVCHENKO, E.N. 1980. On the crane-fly fauna (Diptera) of the USSR. Subfamily Dolichopezinae, Genus *Oropeza* Needh. *Taxonomy of the Insects of the Far East, Vladivostok*: 109-114 (In Russian).
- TANGELDER, I.R.M. 1984. The species of the *Nephrotoma dorsalis*-group in the Palaearctic (Diptera, Tipulidae). *Beaufortia* 34: 15-92.