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New species of the genus *Habropogon* Loew, 1847 (Diptera: Asilidae) from Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Based on the examination of the robberflies collected during an expedition to Kazakhstan in 2024, a new species *Habropogon storozhenkoi* Sakhvon, **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated. An identification key for the males of the genus *Habropogon* from Kazakhstan is provided.

Key words: robber flies, Brachyrhopalinae, key to species, Palaearctic region

Introduction

The genus *Habropogon* Loew, 1847 includes 50 species, most of which are found in arid and semi-arid regions of the Palaearctic (43 species) and Afrotropical (seven species) regions (Hradský & Geller-Grimm 2005; Bosák & Hradský 2011; Geller-Grimm *et al.* 2016). The genus was placed in the subfamily Stenopogoninae by Papavero (1973) and later cited here by Lehr (1988) and Geller-Grimm (2004). However, Dikow (2020) recently transferred *Habropogon* in the subfamily Brachyrhopalinae with the "unplaced" tribe.

Seven species of *Habropogon* have been recorded in Kazakhstan to date: *H. appendiculatus* Schiner, 1867, *H. deserticola* Lehr, 1960, *H. latifrons* Loew, 1871, *H. longiventris* Loew, 1847, *H. malkovskii* Lehr, 1964, *H. mesasiaticus* Lehr, 1960, and *H. montanus* Lehr, 1960 (Lehr 1960, 1988; Sakhvon & Lelej 2017). This new species of *Habropogon* was described based on the material collected during the expedition to Altyn-Emel National Park (Jetisu Region, Kazakhstan) in 2024. Thus, eight species of *Habropogon* are now known from Kazakhstan.

Material and methods

The information presented in this paper is based on the specimens deposited in the Department of Zoology of Belarusian State University, Minsk, Belarus (BSU). The morphological terminology mainly follows Cumming & Wood (2009) and Geller-Grimm *et al*. (2016). The male genitalia of the new species were separated from the abdomen, then treated with 10% potassium hydroxide at 100°C for approximately 15 minutes, then dissected, and after that mounted in glycerin for observation and illustration. Photographs were made using a Canon R6 mark ii camera and stacked using Helicon Focus software. The final illustrations were post-processed for contrast and brightness with Adobe® Photoshop® 2020 (version 21.0) software.

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6. Distance between mystax and antennal sockets equal to or less than combined length of scape and pedicel. Fore- and mid-femur reddish brown without black stripe or with only stripe dorsally . . . . . ***H. deserticola*** **Lehr, 1960**
– Upper margin of mystax nearly reaching antennal sockets. Fore- and mid-femur reddish brown with black stripes anterodorsally and dorsally . . . . . ***H. latifrons*** **Loew, 1871**
7. Distance between mystax and antennal sockets equal to length of scape. Dorsocentral macrosetae well developed, 2–3 dorsocenral macrosetae cross transverse suture. Fore- and mid-femur reddish brown without black stripes. Cerci long and straight . . . . . ***H. malkovskii*** **Lehr, 1964**
– Distance between mystax and antennal sockets equal to or less than combined length of scape and pedicel. Dorsocentral macrosetae absent. Fore- and mid-femur reddish brown with black stripes. Cerci long and curved at the apex . . . . . ***H. storozhenkoi*** **Sakhvon, sp. nov.**

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