

Two new species of the genus *Empidideicus* Becker, 1907 from northern Iran

(Diptera: Mythicomyiidae: Empidideicinae)

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Abstract. Two new species, *Empidideicus aurantiacus* Gharali & Evenhuis, sp. nov. and *Empidideicus unicus* Gharali & Evenhuis, sp. nov., are described and illustrated from the north of Iran. An updated key to species of *Empidideicus* Becker, 1907 in Iran and the neighbouring countries to the north is presented.

Key words. *Empidideicus*, Empidideicinae, Mythicomyiidae, taxonomy, new species, Iran.

Introduction

The genus *Empidideicus* Becker, 1907 was recently recorded from Iran (GHARALI et al. 2010) and six new species were described. This genus is placed in the monogeneric subfamily Empidideicinae and is easily distinguished from other genera of the family Mythicomyiidae by absence of vein R_{2+3} , the long second antennal flagellomere and the apical invagination of the spermathecal reservoir (GREATHEAD & EVENHUIS 2001). According to the world catalogue of the family (EVENHUIS 2002), three species of the genus, namely *E. sugonjaevi* Zaitzev, 1971, *E. turkestanicus* Paramonov, 1934 and *E. asiaticus* Zaitzev, 1971 occur in the countries bordering Iran to the north, the second of which species is distinguished by having the discal cell closed and belonging to the subgenus *Anomaloptilus* Hesse. The other two are members of nominate subgenus *Empidideicus*. Adults are similar to other microbombyliids and feed on pollen and nectar. There is no information on the immature stages of *Empidideicus* spp. Two new species are described in this study based on specimens collected since our initial study by white pan traps in the north of Iran.

After collection, the holotypes and some paratypes were dried by BROWN's method (1993). Preparation of genitalia and terminology follow GHARALI et al. (2010). Hoyer's medium was used to mount dried specimens on card points. A key to eleven species of the genus in Iran and adjacent regions is presented.

Abbreviations: BPBM = Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA; ZMHB = Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany; IRIPP = Iranian Research Institute for Plant Protection, Tehran, Iran.