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First record of *Nephrocerus flavicornis* Zetterstedt, 1844 (Diptera: Pipunculidae) for the Italian fauna

ABSTRACT - In this paper, the presence of the pipunculid *Nephrocerus flavicornis* Zetterstedt, 1844 in Italy is recorded for the first time. A single specimen was collected in a Malaise trap in the 'Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza' in Trino (VC).

KEYWORDS - Big-headed flies, Piedmont, Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza, oak-hornbeam, Malaise trap.

RIASSUNTO - *Prima segnalazione per la fauna italiana di Nephrocerus flavicornis Zetterstedt, 1844 (Diptera: Pipunculidae).*

L'autore segnala per la prima volta la presenza del Dittero Pipunculide *Nephrocerus flavicornis* Zetterstedt, 1844 in Italia. Un singolo esemplare è stato raccolto mediante l'utilizzo di una trappola Malaise al 'Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza' di Trino (VC).

INTRODUCTION

The knowledge and distribution of Pipunculidae species throughout Europe are relatively well established for what concerns Northern Europe (Kehlmaier & Ståhls, 2007), contrary to the still poorly documented Mediterranean region (Kehlmaier *et al.*, 2019; Kehlmaier, 2010). The latest checklist for the Italian fauna, compiled by Kozánek & Belcari (1995), reported 57 species of pipunculids, this number, however, has been recently updated to 108 by Kehlmaier (2010). *Nephrocerus* is a northern temperate genus well documented from the Palaearctic and Nearctic regions, while only recently found in the Neotropical region (Skevington, 2005). Three species of *Nephrocerus* are present in Europe (De Meyer, 2017; Grootaert & De Meyer, 1986): *N. flavicornis* Zetterstedt, 1844, *N. lapponicus* Zetterstedt, 1838 and *N. scutellatus* (Macquart, 1834). In Italy, *N. scutellatus* was recorded by Kozánek & Belcari (1995) and Kehlmaier (2010), while *N. lapponicus* was recorded only later (Kehlmaier, 2008). *Nephrocerus flavicornis* is recorded for the first time in Italy in this article.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During the monitoring of a hoverfly assemblage in Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza, an expanse of oak-hornbeam woods of about 500 ha in Piedmont region (Italy), a single male of *N. flavicornis* was detected in a bottle placed in a Malaise trap (coordinates 45°13'26"N 8°15'41"E) set out between April 07, 2020 and May 20, 2020. For the identification of *N. flavicornis* the key reported in Grootaert and De Meyer (1986) was used. The specimen is preserved in 95% ethanol and stored in the author's reference collection.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This male specimen of *Nephrocerus flavicornis* Zetterstedt, collected in Trino Woods, represents the first record of the species in Italy. To date, published records of this European species comprise Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland (De Meyer

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