

Szadziewski, R., Kaczorowska, E. and Krzywiński, J. 1996. Redescriptions of some European species of *Atrichopogon* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae). *Polskie Pismo Entomologiczne* 65, 297-318.

Walker, F. 1856. *Insecta Britannica, Diptera*. Volume 3. xxiv + 352 pp., plates 21-30. Lovell and Reeve, London.

### ***Desmometopa varipalpis* Malloch (Diptera, Milichiidae) new to**

**Britain** – On 16 April 2010, at my place of work on the top floor of a modern office building in Bracknell, Berks (SU8568), I had placed on a spare VDU a black plastic toy spider, and on this I found a tiny black fly of 2.2mm in length. Following capture a vain attempt was made to identify it. Photographs were taken and posted that day on diptera.info. Irina Brake spotted the listing and identified it as the cosmopolitan synanthropic species *Desmometopa varipalpis* Malloch, 1927, which was new to Britain apart from a record of occurrence at the Liverpool Docks reported by C.W. Sabrosky (1983. A synopsis of the world species of *Desmometopa* Loew (Diptera, Milichiidae). *Contributions of the American Entomological Institute, Ann Arbor* 19, 1-69). The latter record was based on two females found in March 1968, ex a ship arriving from Canada, by a Ministry of Agriculture inspector, the specimens being in the Natural History Museum collection.

Adult *Desmometopa varipalpis* have been recorded attracted to rotting fruits and vegetables, latrines, near sewage and septic tanks, a Dairy Cheese room and a butcher's shop (Dawah, H.A. and Abdullah, M.A. 2007. New Records of some Filth Flies Species (Diptera: Milichiidae) in Southwest Saudi Arabia. *Saudi Journal of Biological Sciences* 14(2), 263-270). The larvae feed as bio-filters of sewage, dung, and many kinds of decaying vegetables and fruits (Brake, I. 2011. *Desmometopa varipalpis* Malloch, 1927 – Milichiidae online. <http://milichiidae.info/content/desmometopa-varipalpis-malloch-1927>, retrieved 9 January 2013).

At first, the fly was dismissed as a likely random import from a supermarket packed lunch. However, on 20 May 2012, a second specimen was found at the same location, attracted to an open can of cola. A third on 9 January 2013 was wandering over a desk. Then when going through old material in my collection, a fourth specimen, that had been collected walking on my desk on 10 February 2010, was found, indicating that this species was established, in Bracknell at least. What attracted the flies to this particular building thus far remains a mystery.

*Desmometopa varipalpis* was described by J.R. Malloch from material from New South Wales, Australia. Its distribution is now somewhat cosmopolitan, no doubt spread by the activities of man. It is easily separated from other *Desmometopa* species on account of the oversized spinose palpi that bear a mottled pattern (Sabrosky *op. cit.*).

My thanks go to Irina Brake for the identification of the first specimen – **MARK MITCHELL**, 64 Ascot Court, Aldershot, GU11 1HG