

First records of *Eristalinus megacephalus* (Rossi, 1794) (Diptera Syrphidae) in the Emilia-Romagna region (Italy)

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RIASSUNTO

Prime segnalazioni di *Eristalinus megacephalus* (Rossi, 1794) in Emilia-Romagna

Vengono riportate le prime segnalazioni nelle province di Bologna e Ferrara di *Eristalinus megacephalus*, una specie finora considerata tipica di ambienti mediterranei: la sua presenza in zone interne della Pianura Padana può essere una conseguenza del riscaldamento climatico.

SHORT NOTE

Eristalinus megacephalus (Rossi, 1794), is a hoverfly of the Eristalinae subfamily. Its preferred environments are open ground and freshwater, canal and riverside situations in open country, coastal lagoons (SPEIGHT, 2020). Adults are generally seen fast-flying around tall waterside vegetation. The larvae are saprophagous in organically enriched waters: they have been found even in running water contaminated with pig manure.

Its geographical range includes southern Spain, Rhone delta in France and coastal parts of Italy round the Mediterranean basin (including islands, e.g. Corsica, Malta, Sicily, Crete) to Turkey and on into Egypt and N Africa; southwards through the Afrotropical region to South Africa.

In its typical range it is a bivoltine species (SPEIGHT *et al.*, 2020), flying in March-April and September-October, but there also are some records in May-July and as late as November.

Two specimens, both males, of the species were seen during 2023 in the inner Po River Valley, Emilia-Romagna region: A. Baretje observed it on 01.VI.2023 near a pond in the municipality of Ozzano Emilia (BO), Lat: 44.476752, Lon: 11.495194, whilst C. Corazza found it on 15.IX.2023 in the municipality of Ferrara (FE), Lat: 44.898028 Lon: 11.693038, close to an irrigation channel. The two observations can be found in the iNaturalist website (see Bibliography). The presence in the Ferrara site was confirmed a few days later, with the observation of another specimen. The individuals were resting on *Achillea* sp. and *Oenanthë* sp. flowers.

The province of Bologna and Ferrara are included into the continental area of Italy.

On the basis of the Syrph the Net method (SPEIGHT, 2012), *E. megacephalus* was not expected for the province of Ferrara (SOMMAGGIO, 2012) due to the Mediterranean preferences of the species.

The finding of the species in the Emilia-Romagna region testifies of the Northwards expansion of its geographic range, probably as a consequence of climate change.

We thank Prof. Daniele Sommaggio for the confirmation of the species and the indications about its geographic range and the online communities of the Hoverflies of the World (Syrphidae) Facebook page and of www.inaturalist.org for the help in the identification.

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Fig. 1. *Eristalinus megacephalus*, male. Foto by A. Baretje

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