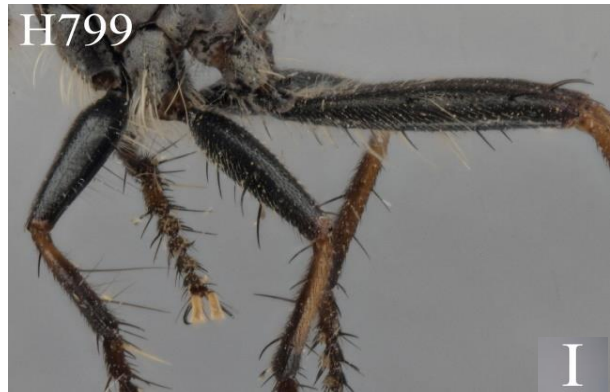


DIAGNOSIS *Neomochtherus granitis* . Tsacas. 1968.

Specimen H799. Sp 15mm. Lg 10.5mm. Agiassos, Lesvos, Greece. 13.VII.2007. M.Hull.
39°4'32"N. 26°22'28"E. Alt 526M.





Small(3mm) to very large (50mm), but generally medium sized to large (8-20mm) flies, varying in shape from long and slender to short and stout. The colour of the body and pubescence are variable from dark metallic lustrous to paler, with orange or yellow markings on both body and wings, or resembling bees and wasps. Head dorsally concave in between the large, dichoptic eyes; ocelli implanted on an elevation between the eyes; antenna variable, third segment elongate, usually followed by 1 or 2 segment(s) which may, or may not, have an arista or style; face relatively long and nearly always with a distinct facial knob bearing long bristles, named the mystax or beard; mouthparts powerful and piercing. Wing usually clear, in some cases completely or partially tinged or darkened; cell m3 and cell cup open or closed. Legs long and powerful, often armed with strong bristles; tibia with apical bristles or spurs, empodium bristle-like or absent.

DIAGNOSIS TO GENUS

1. Palpi single segmented, 3rd antennal segment, almost without exception, more or less provided with a long jointed arista termination. Mesopleural bristles always absent. Number of male abdominal segments never less than 8.
2. Marginal cell (R1) always closed and petiolate. 8 abdominal segments in both sexes; in the female at least the 8th segment (and also frequently the 6th and 7th) are more beautiful than the genital segment, through sculpture, hair and colouring. Ovipositor always free, and of a spiny type. Feet always with puvilli. Robust, frequently of thickly hairy, and always amply bristled appearance.....ASILINAE
3. Lower forked branch r5 always joins the costa behind the wing-tip.
4. R4 (2nd lower cell) present; can have downward drooping vein. Metanotal side calli with or without bristles.
5. Mesonotal side calli always bristly or hairy.
6. Metatarsals not shortened, somewhat thickened and widened, similar to *Astochia* Beck.
7. Clearly bristles in front of the posterior margins of the middle abdominal segments, from time to time the same bristle disposition with respect to the sternites.
8. Abdomen, except for posterior segments, always more or less with extensive grey, greyish-yellow or yellow-ochre pollination.
9. Occipital bristles never pointed forwards at right angles; median stripes always more or less covered with the usual short mesonotal bristles; the posterior abdominal segment is not shiny.
10. Only post sutural dorso-central bristles present; most do not reach the transverse suture; only exceptionally do a few pairs of short weak dc's reach forward of the transverse suture; 3rd antennal segment (without measuring the antennal bristle) as long as both basal segments together.
11. Facial callus poorly developed, nose-shaped, the upper end (upper edge of mystax) is further from the antennal base than the length of the 1st antennal segment.
12. Legs predominantly red or yellow; body grey or yellowish-grey coloured; distal end of forceps constricted or provided with support; ovipositor cerci without spines.....
.....Neomochtherus O.S

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DIAGNOSIS TO SPECIES

After Tsacas 1968:-

1. Abdominal sternites with grey or greyish pollination.
2. Legs having at most f black.
3. Antennae entirely black.
4. Long white or yellowish hairs on the palpi.
5. Short mesonotal hairs black on disc.
6. Hairs between the dc's and in front of the scutellum black.
7. Tibia 3 with 2 dorsal bristles (or posterior-dorsal) below the middle, one at the base; short hairs of the dorsal surface of f3 entirely black; postocular bristles black...granitis Tsacas

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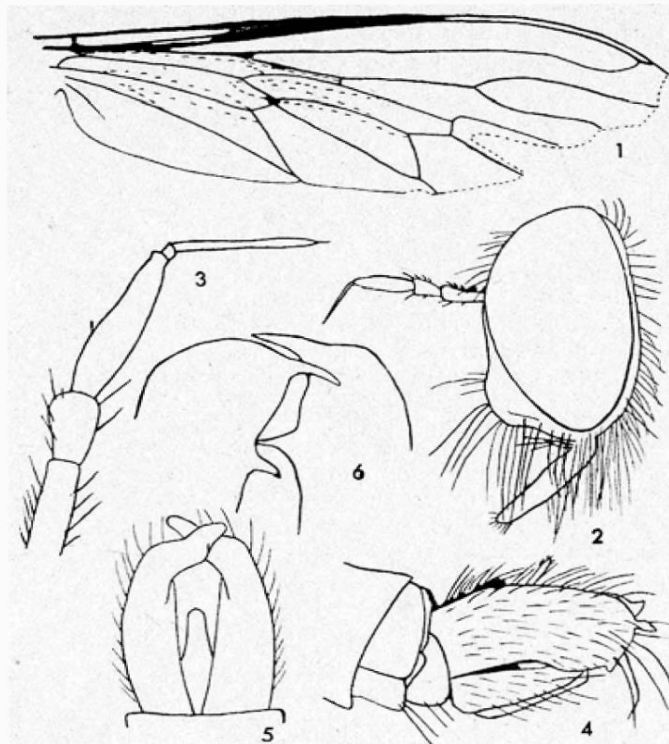
1. *N. granitis* n. sp.

Fig. 1-6.

Tête : noire, couverte d'une pruinosité grise, face avec la même pruinosité plus dense sur les côtés, renflement peu développé à pruinosité moins dense. Moustache composée de soies noires et blanches, les dernières constituant sa partie inférieure. La distance entre la limite supérieure de la moustache et la base des antennes plus longue que les deux articles basaux antennaires réunis. Front couvert d'une légère pruinosité grise laissant sa partie médiane nue, quelques poils latéraux noirs. Calus ocellaire noir avec des poils noirs. Soies postoculaires supérieures noires, inférieures blanches. Barbe blanche. Palpes noirs à poils blancs. Trompe noire, courte et mince, poils ventraux blancs.

Antennes entièrement noires avec une légère pruinosité grise ou jaunâtre, quelques chétules noires sur les articles basaux, troisième article presque aussi long que les deux basaux réunis, et presque aussi long que son style, avec une chétule au milieu de son côté dorsal.

Thorax noir. Pronotum à pruinosité grise et couronne de soies jaunes. Mésonotum à pruinosité grise légèrement dorée. Courte pilosité du mésonotum noire, dispersée, jaune au-dessus des ailes. Bande médiane deux fois plus large que la distance entre les yeux sur le vertex, se rétrécissant vers l'arrière. Ligne médiane très légère. Deux taches latérales bien marquées, suivies par une troisième très étroite en forme de coin qui se termine entre le calus postalaire et les dc. Macrochètes noirs : 4-5 dc atteignant la suture transversale, 3 notopleurales, 1 intralaire, 2 posta-

FIG. 1-6. — *N. granitis* n. sp., Type ♂.

1 : aile ; 2 : profil de la tête ; 3 : antenne ; 4 : hypopygium, vue latérale ; 5 : id. vue dorsale ; 6 : id. vue postéroventrale (détail).

lares (l'une fine et petite). Scutellum avec des fins poils noirs et jaunes, 2 sc jaunes. Calus latéraux du mésonotum à poils jaunes, mélangés avec quelques rares noirs.

Pleures à pruinosité légère, gris-jaunâtre, et soies claires. Hanches noires avec la même pruinosité que les pleures, soies blanches. Trochanters noirs. Pattes : f1 noirs, seule une bande ventrale roussâtre sur la moitié basale de laquelle prennent naissance de long poils blancs. f2 et f3 jaune-roux avec une large bande noire antérieure, soies en majorité blanches surtout sur le f3.

Tibias jaune-roux noircis à l'apex, soies noires à l'exception de quelques-unes ventrales et deux très longues postéro-ventrales des t1 et t2. Protarses d'un roux foncé, noir à l'apex ; les articles suivants noirs. Soies des tarses noires à l'exception de : 2 postérieures (1 basale et 1 apicale) du protarse I ; 1 postérieure apicale du deuxième article du tarse I ; 1 postérieure basale du protarse II. Pelotes d'un jaune blanchâtre, griffes noires.

FIGS

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Ailes : hyalines, légèrement obscurcies ; les microtriches les couvrent presque entièrement, nervures brunes, claires à la base, r1 plus claire. Balanciers d'un jaune-clair.

Abdomen long, étroit, tergites noirs, T II et T IV avec une bande postérieure gris-jaunâtre. Disques à larges taches noires ; éclairées par le devant elles deviennent d'un roux-brun. Sur les côtés, une pruinosité grise dense. T I avec une touffe de poils jaunâtres de chaque côté reliées entre elles par une rangée de soies marginales noires. T II-VI avec des soies marginales blanches sur les côtés, noires au milieu, celles des T VII et VIII entièrement noires. Toutes les chétules noires. Sternites noirs couverts d'une très légère pruinosité qui n'apparaît que sous une certaine direction de la lumière. Poils et soies dressés jaunâtres, sur tous les sternites, à l'exception de celles du bord postérieur du dernier et d'une partie de celles de l'avant-dernier sternite.

Hypopygium d'un noir brillant, seule la partie apicale des gonopodes rousse. Les soies et chétules noires, celles du bord postérieur et inférieur de l'epandrium claires.

Longueur : 10 mm. Longueur de l'aile : 7 mm.

Holotype : 1 ♂, Granitis (Macédoine orientale, Grèce), 18-VIII-1961 (L. Tsacas). Muséum, Paris.

Cette espèce se rapproche de *N. albicans* (Lw) par l'allure générale et plusieurs caractères ; elle s'en différencie par la forme de l'hypopygium et les caractères suivants :

- tous les fémurs avec des soies blanches ; moustache blanche ; hypopygium du ♂ roux.....*albicans* Lw
- tous les fémurs avec des soies mélangées noires et blanches ; moustaches noire et blanche ; hypopygium du ♂ noir.....*granitis* n. sp.

Mike Taylor translation of Tsacas description:-

Neomochtherus granitis n.sp.

Head: Black covered with grey pruinosity, face with the same pruinosity, denser round the margins, facial callus poorly developed with less dense pruinosity. Mystax composed of black and white bristles, the latter mostly in the centre. The distance between the upper edge of the mystax and the antennal base longer than the length of the two antennal segments combined. Frons covered with light grey pollinosity leaving the middle bare, several black hairs at the sides. Ocellar callus black with black hairs. Upper post-ocular bristles black, lower ones white. Beard white. Papi black with white hairs, short and slim, ventral hairs white. Antennae entirely black with a light grey or yellowish pruinosity, several black bristle-hairs on the base segments, third segment almost as long as the total length of the two base segments, and almost as long as the style, with a bristle-hair in the centre of its top side.

Thorax: Black, pronotum with grey pruinosity, crown with yellow bristles. Mesonotum with light grey pruinosity. Short mesonotal hairs black, scattered, yellow above the wings. Median stripe twice as wide as the distance between the eyes at the vertex, narrowing posteriorly. Median line very light. Two conspicuous lateral marks, followed by a third very narrow wedge-shaped one which ends between the postalar callus and the dc's. Setae black; 4-5 dc's reaching the transverse suture, 3 notopleurals, 1 intra-alar, 2 postalars (small and fine). Scutellum with fine black and yellow hairs. Two yellow dorso-central bristles. Lateral mesonotal calli with yellow hairs, mixed occasionally with a few black ones. Pleura with light greyish-yellow pruinosity and clear bristles. Hips black with the same pruinosity as the pleura, bristles white. Trochanters black.

Legs: f1 black, only a reddish ventral band on the basal half from which springs thick white pile. f2 and f3 yellowish-red with a large anterior black band with mainly white bristles mostly on f3. Tibias yellowish-red with black apex, bristles black except for several ventral and two very long posterior-ventrals on t1 and t2. Metatarsus dark red, with black apex; the following segments black. Tarsal bristles black except for 2 posteriorly (1 basal and 1 apical) on the metatarsus, 1 posterior-apically on the second segment of tarsus 1, 1 posteriorly-basally on metatarsus 2. Pulvilli yellowish-white, claws black.

Wings: Hyaline, lightly clouded, almost entirely covered with microtrichia, veins brown, clear at the base, r1 very clear. Halteres bright yellow.

Abdomen: Long, narrow, tergites black, T2 and T4 with greyish-yellow posterior bands. Discs with large black marks, under front illumination they appear reddish-brown. Thick grey pruinosity at the sides. T1 with a tuft of yellowish hairs on the sides connected between them by a row of black marginal bristles. T2 to T6 with white marginal bristles at the edges, black in the middle, those on T7 and T8 entirely black. All bristle-hairs black. Sternites black covered with a very light pruinosity which only appears under a certain light direction. Pile and erect bristles yellowish, on all sternites, with the exception of the posterior edges of the last sternite and a part of the cell on the next to last sternite.

Hypopygium: Shiny black, only the apical section of the gonopods reddish. The bristles and bristle-hairs black, those of the posterior margin and the middle of the epandrium clear.

Length 10mm. Wing length 7mm.

Holotype 1 male. Granitis (Macedonia, Greece) 18.VIII.1961. (L.Tsacas). Museum, Paris.

FIGS

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DISCUSSION

Tsacas observed the closeness of *N.granitis* to *N.albicans*:-

This species is close to *N.albicans* (Lw) through general appearance and several characters; these are the shape of the hypopygium and the following characters;

- All the femurs with white hairs; mystax white; male hypopygium red.....*albicans* Lw
- All the femurs with mixed black and white hairs; mystax black and white; male hypopygium black.....*granitis* n.sp

Soos and Papp, Catalogue of Palaearctic Diptera, treated *N.granitis* as a valid species.

Geller -Grimm does not include this species in his 'Species csv' catalogue.

Known material of *N.granitis* is one male, the Holotype, described by Tsacas, no female specimens were referred to in his description and no differing female characters were described by him. I assume he had only the single specimen to hand when describing the species.

An internet search failed to find references to any other specimens or records.

Specimen H799 was taken at Agiassos, Lesvos, 320Km southeast of the type locality. Both specimens were taken in the middle of summer, type 18th August, H799 13th July. The type specimen seems to have had a rather worn wing as shown by the lack of posterior margin and tip detail in the Tsacas Fig, whilst H799 appears to be very fresh.

