

## A new species of the genus *Platypalpus* Macquart from Turkmenistan (Diptera, Empidoidea: Hybotidae)

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*Platypalpus ozerovi* sp. n. belonging to the *pallidiventris-cursitans* species group is described from Turkmenistan.

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### *Platypalpus ozerovi* sp. n. (Figs 1-5)

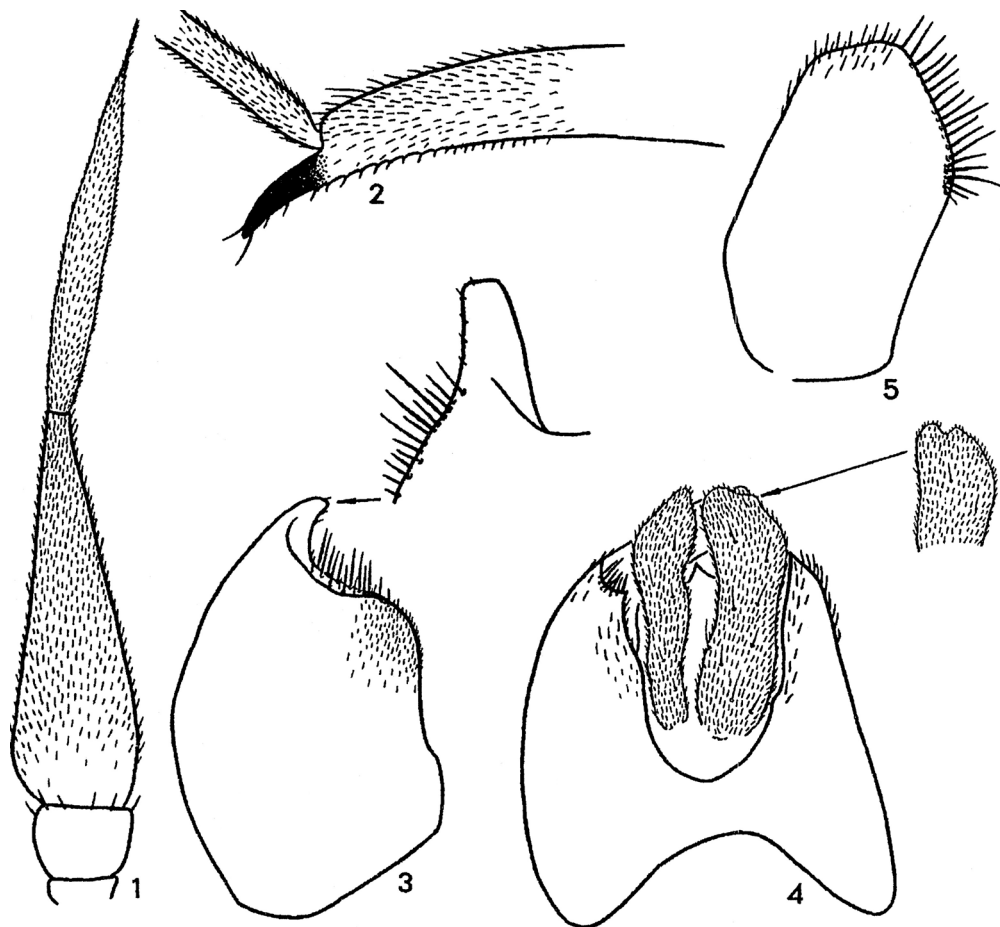
*Holotype*. ♂, Turkmenistan, Repetek Nature Reserve, 22.IV.1990, leg. A.L. Ozerov; collection of the Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University.

*Description*. Male. Head black in ground-colour; occiput, vertex and frons densely light grey pollinose. Frons slightly widening towards ocellar triangle; its width above antennae equal to distance between posterior ocelli. Face, including clypeus, covered with dense silvery grey pubescence, parallel-sided, somewhat narrower than frons above antennae. Head with whitish yellow hairs and bristles. Anterior ocellar bristles relatively short and strong. Inner verticals as long as ocellars, converging, relatively wide apart. Occiput covered with numerous bristly hairs. Antennae, including arista, black. 3rd antennal segment narrow, 3.2 times as long as wide. Arista strongly thickened, lanceolate, almost as long as 3rd antennal segment. Palpi black, small, covered with short light pubescence, bearing a long, whitish yellow, hair-like bristle near apex. Proboscis dark brown.

Thorax black in ground-colour, densely grey pollinose; sides somewhat lighter; mesonotum with grey-yellow tint; sternopleura with a narrow polished spot. Humeri distinct, with a long bristle and 4-5 short hairs. Two notopleurals (posterior one longer) surrounded by several short hairs and 1 postalar. Scutellum with 2 long crossing apical and 2 short lateral bristles. Acrostichals biserial, numerous (about 9 in a row),

straight, somewhat longer than 2nd antennal segment; distance between separate bristles more than distance between rows. Dorsocentrals uniserial, numerous, straight, as long as acrostichals, ending in two pairs of longer prescutellars; the distance between rows of acrostichals and dorsocentrals more than the length of the former. All thoracic hairs and bristles yellowish white.

Legs reddish yellow; fore coxae in basal half, middle and hind coxae mostly blackish, grey pollinose; tarsi with distinct black-brown annulations in apical part of segments, 5th segment yellow in basal 1/4. Fore and middle femora thickened, of about the same stoutness. All coxae bearing relatively long whitish bristle-like hairs. Fore femora with a row of anteroventral and a row of posteroventral light bristles; anteroventral bristles shorter than posteroventral ones. Middle femora with a double row of black, short, spine-like bristles ventrally; bristles of anterior row as long as bristles of posterior row; a row of long yellowish posteroventral bristles present. Fore tibiae not thickened, covered with short sparse light hairs, with a row of short brownish yellow dorsal bristles. Middle tibiae slightly arched, becoming somewhat stouter towards base, shorter than middle femora, covered with short sparse light hairs, bearing black short bristles ventrally and an apical spur at apex. The latter blackish, somewhat curved at apex, with pointed tip, bearing 2 black short bristles in apical part, as long as width of middle tibia near apex. Hind legs long and slender, covered with short hairs.



**Figs 1-5.** *Platypalpus ozerovi* sp. n., male, holotype. 1, antenna; 2, apical part of middle tibia; 3, right periandrial lamella; 4, periandrium with cerci; 5, left periandrial lamella.

Wings hyaline. Veins brownish yellow, becoming lighter towards base of wing. Costal bristle light yellow, long.  $R_{4+5}$  and  $M_{1+2}$  straight, parallel.  $A_1$  short.  $CuA_2$  slightly recurrent, straight.  $m-cu$  1.8 times as long as section of  $M$  between  $m-cu$  and  $r-m$ .  $br$  somewhat wider than  $bm$ . Squamae light yellow, with long light cilia. Halteres light yellow.

Abdomen black, polished; 1st tergite (except for its middle), 2nd tergite on sides, 3-7th tergites at base and 8th segment entirely densely silvery-grey pollinose. Dorsum of abdomen with short scattered whitish hairs; sternites, sides of tergites and 7th and 8th segments bearing longer and denser hairs. Hypopygium black, polished; cerci covered with dense whitish pubescence.

Length: body 2.5 mm; wing 2.6 mm.

Female unknown.

*Etymology.* The species is named after the Russian dipterist Dr A.L. Ozerov who collected it.

*Discussion.* The new species is a typical representative of the *pallidiventris-cursitans* species group (Grootaert & Chvala, 1992). It can be easily distinguished from other species of this largest group by the strongly thickened arista. Among the Palearctic *Platypalpus* this character can be found in four species only. *P. pachycerus* (Collin, 1949), described from Egypt, differs from the new species in the two diverging verticals, partly yellow antennae, yellow palpi and a number of other characters. *P. crassiseta* (Strobl, 1906), known from southern

Spain only, is smaller and has the arista twice as long as 3rd antennal segment, mesonotum with polished spot behind humeri and some other distinctive characters. *P. aristatus* (Collin, 1926), distributed in western and central parts of Europe, has no posteroventral bristles on middle femora and differs also from *P. ozerovi* in the yellow legs and flattened apical spur on middle tibiae. *P. anomalicerus* (Becker, 1902) belongs to the *unguiculatus* species group. This species is known from North Africa only. It has a set of very distinctive characters and cannot be confused with the above-described species.

#### Acknowledgements

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#### Reference

- Grootaert, P. & Chvala, M. 1992. Monograph of the genus *Platypalpus* (Diptera: Empidoidea, Hybotidae) of the Mediterranean region and the Canary Islands. *Acta Univ. Carolinae, Biol.*, 36(1/2): 3-226.

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