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First records of predatory long-legged flies (Diptera, Dolichopodidae) from the Tula Oblast, Russia

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Abstract. During the recent 2025 short-term survey conducted in the Tula Oblast, twelve Dolichopodidae species were collected, all new for this region. Of them, ten species are rather common Western or Trans-Palaeartic species. *Sybistroma binodicornis* Stackelberg, 1941 is supposed to be a synonym of western Palaeartic *S. nodicornis* Meigen, 1824. Most old records of *Syntormon monile* (Haliday, 1851) from Europe, North Africa, and Türkiye are highly likely to belong to *S. submonilis* Negrobov, 1975. *Chrysotimus molliculus* (Fallén, 1823) is excluded from Tula Oblast and added to the fauna of Oryol Oblast.

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Keywords: Dolichopodidae, fauna, Tula Oblast, sweep net, new records

Первые находки хищных мух-зеленушек (Diptera, Dolichopodidae) из Тульской области России

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Аннотация. Сборы мух-зеленушек в 2025 г. в Тульской области выявили первые для этого региона двенадцать видов Dolichopodidae. Десять видов – это широко распространенные западнопалеарктические и транс-палеарктические виды. Предполагается, что *Sybistroma binodicornis* Stackelberg, 1941 является синонимом западнопалеарктического *S. nodicornis* Meigen, 1824, а большинство прежних указаний *Syntormon monile* (Haliday, 1851) из Европы, Северной Африки и Турции следует отнести с высокой вероятностью к *S. submonilis* Negrobov, 1975. *Chrysotimus molliculus* (Fallén, 1823) исключен из Тульской области и добавлен к фауне Орловской области.

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Ключевые слова: Dolichopodidae, фауна, Тульская область, энтомологический сачок, новые указания

Introduction

The Tula (or Tul'skaya) Oblast is geographically located in the Central European Russia, covering an area of 25,700 square kilometers in the northeastern part of the Central Russian Upland within the forest-steppe zone, or East European forest steppe ecoregion (see Ecoregions 2017).

The predatory long-legged flies (Dolichopodidae including Parathalassinae) is a large family with ca. 1740 species in the fauna of Palaearctic Region (Grichanov 2025). No dolichopodid species from Tula Oblast were known. The single species of this family was collected from the 'Tula Government' (*Chrysotimus molliculus* (Fallén, 1823)) by the famous Russian naturalist Alexei P. Fedchenko (1844-1873) in 1867 (Fedchenko 1868). However, the locality for this species (Znamenskoe, Yefremovsky Uyezd) was renamed into Glebovo and transferred to the Novoderevenkovsky District of Oryol Oblast during the Soviet times. So, the Tula Oblast was one of the few Russian regions with completely unstudied fauna of Dolichopodidae (blank spot).

In this paper, we provide information on new records for twelve species found for the first time from the region, and provide notes on two rare species.

Material and methods

The material for this study was collected in mesophytic and hygrophitic habitats by the collaborator of the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia (ZMUM) Dr. Nikita Vikhrev using standard sweeping method; it will be deposited in the ZMUM collection. New records are listed below, collected in the central and south-eastern parts of Tula Oblast and labeled as follows: 'Tula Oblast, ..., N. Vikhrev leg.' These data are not repeated in the text. The information on the global distribution for each species follows Grichanov (Grichanov 2025). The country lists are arranged alphabetically. The words 'Region' (Oblast) and 'Territory' (Krai) are omitted from the list of Russian regions. Genera and species are placed in the alphabetic order.

New records

Genus *Argyra* Macquart, 1834

1. *Argyra diaphana* (Fabricius, 1775)

Material. 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. Western Palaearctic species.

Genus *Dolichopus* Latreille, 1796

2. *Dolichopus latilimbatus* Macquart, 1827

Material. 1♂, Kozye vill. env., 07.06.2025, I.D. Solodkii leg.

Distribution. Western and Central Palaearctic species (except for North Africa, Arctic region and Far East).

3. *Dolichopus simplex* (Meigen, 1824)

Material. 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. Western Palaearctic species.

Genus *Ethiomyia* Brooks et Wheeler, 2005

4. *Ethiomyia chalybea* (Wiedemann, 1817)

Material. 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. European species.

Genus *Gymnopternus* Loew, 1857

5. *Gymnopternus metallicus* (Stannius, 1831)

Material. 1♂, 14 km E Efremov, 53.159° N, 38.333° E, 10.06.2025; 1♂, Yasnaya Polyana, 54.08° N, 37.51° E, 04-05.06.2025.

Distribution. Trans-Palaearctic species.

Genus *Neurigona* Rondani, 1856

6. *Neurigona pallida* (Fallén, 1823)

Material. 1♀, Kozye vill. env., 07.06.2025, I.D. Solodkii leg.

Distribution. Europe and West Siberia.

Genus *Rhaphium* Meigen, 1803

7. *Rhaphium caliginosum* (Meigen, 1824)

Material. 1♂, 2♀, Kozye vill. env., 07.06.2025, I.D. Solodkii leg.; 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. Western Palaearctic species, eastward to Krasnoyarsk.

8. *Rhaphium commune* (Meigen, 1824)

Material. 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. Holarctic species.

Genus *Sciapus* Zeller, 1842

9. *Sciapus platypterus* (Fabricius, 1805)

Material. 2♂, 25 km NE Efremov, 53.26° N, 38.45° E, 05-09.06.2025.

Distribution. European species.

Genus *Sybistroma* Meigen, 1824

10. *Sybistroma binodicornis* Stackelberg, 1941

Material. 3♂, 14 km E Efremov, 53.159° N, 38.333° E, 10.06.2025.

Distribution. Adygea, Kabardino-Balkaria, Krasnodar, Lipetsk, Volgograd.

11. *Sybistroma crinipes* Staeger, 1842

Material. 3♂, 14 km E Efremov, 53.159° N, 38.333° E, 10.06.2025.

Distribution. Europe, Georgia, and Türkiye.

Genus *Syntormon* Loew, 1857

12. *Syntormon submonilis* Negrobov, 1975

Material. 1♂, Vyazovo, 53.194° N, 38.449° E, 08.06.2025.

Distribution. Croatia, Romania, Russia (Kaliningrad, Krasnodar), Serbia, UK.

Conclusion

As a result of our study, twelve Dolichopodidae species are recorded from the central and south-eastern parts of Tula Oblast. Of them, ten species are rather common Western or Trans-Palaeartic species. Nevertheless, comments for two rare species are deemed necessary. *Sybistroma binodicornis* was separated

from western Palaeartic *S. nodicornis* Meigen, 1824, by Stackelberg (Stackelberg 1941), who used only somewhat variable characters of antenna including arista-like stylus. The two names may be synonymous, but the direct comparison of Russian and West European specimens is required. Drake (Drake 2021) changed recently the species concept of *Syntormon monile* (Haliday, 1851). As a result, the latter species records from many countries of Europe (eastward to Urals), as well as from North Africa and Türkiye must be confirmed, as they may belong to *S. submonilis*. It is worth noting that Drake (Drake 2021) examined only British specimens of *S. monile*. *Chrysotimus molliculus* is here excluded from Tula Oblast. It was not recorded from Oryol Oblast (Grichanov, Ovsyannikova 2015).

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