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# First record of the robber fly *Choerades castellanii* (Diptera: Asilidae) from the Czech Republic

## První nález roupce *Choerades castellanii* (Diptera: Asilidae) v České republice

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**Diptera, Asilidae, faunistics, faunistic record, Czech Republic**

**Abstract.** The robber fly *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962) is reported for the first time from the Czech Republic.

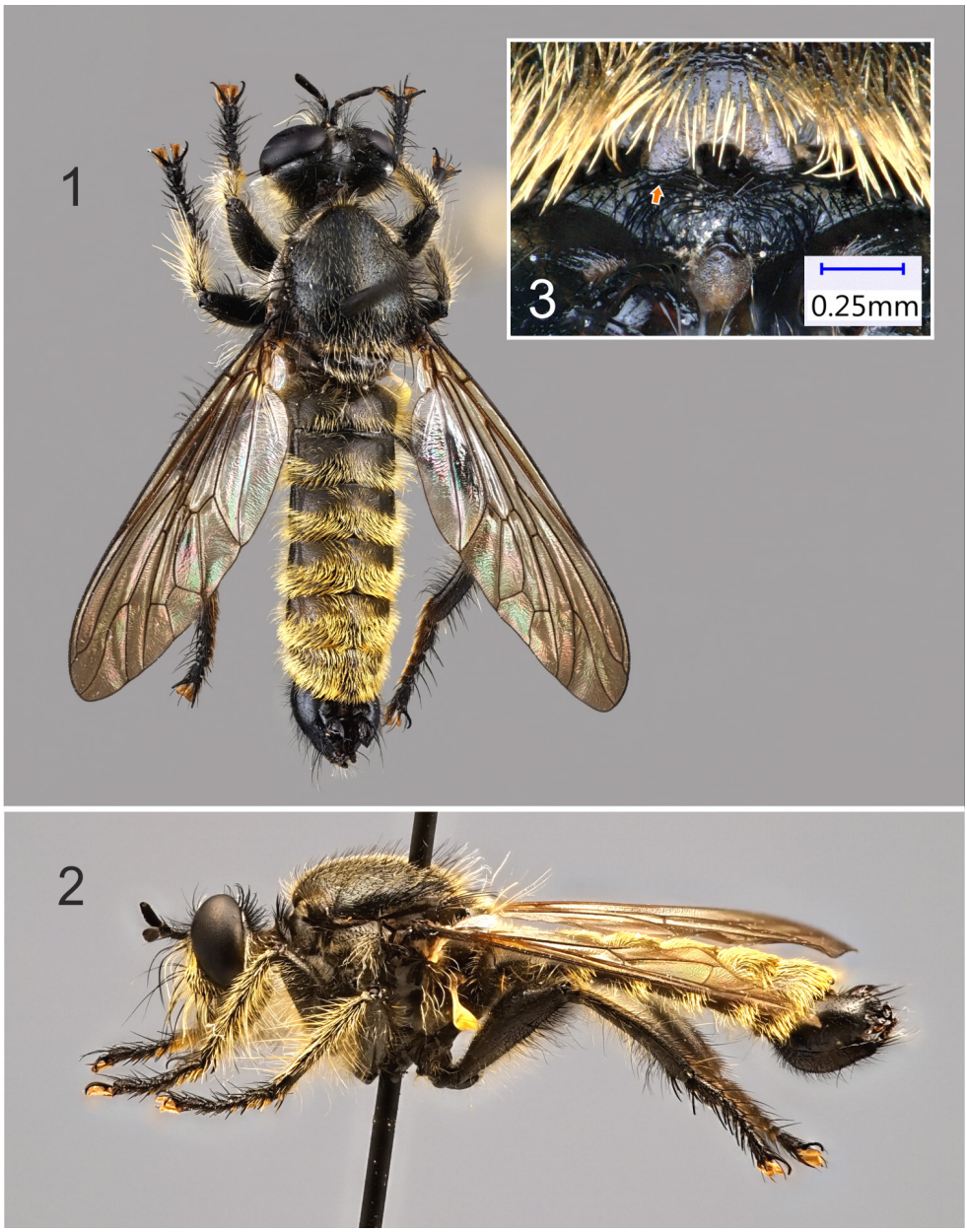
## INTRODUCTION

Nine species of the genus *Choerades* Walker, 1851 are reported from the territory of former Czechoslovakia, seven species from the Czech Republic itself (Bosák 2009). *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962) was originally described in the genus *Epholkiolaphria* Herman, 1914 – later synonymized with the *Choerades* by Geller-Grimm (2004) – based on individuals sampled in Slovakia (Hradský 1962). More than three decades after its description it was also collected in Germany on the border with France (Geller-Grimm et al. 2003). Finally, in 2019 it was reported from three regions in Hungary (Boeraeve et al. 2019). So far, this species has been reported only from the territory of three Central European countries. The aim of this contribution is to report the first record of *C. castellanii* for the Czech Republic.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Choerades castellanii*** (Hradský, 1962)

**Material examined.** Czech Republic, Moravia mer., Břeclav, Soutok Game Preserve, Malé lány (7267), 48°43′9.841″N 16°54′25.588″E, 156 m a.s.l., 19.vii.2021, 1 ♂, T. Kadlec leg. et coll., P. Marhoul det.
**Collecting circumstances.** The specimen (Figs 1–2) was caught during midday and in sunny weather, individually with insect net on the broken part of an insolated and solitary standing deciduous tree (Fig. 4). After interruption it returned to the same place.
**Notes.** The male of *C. castellanii* is easily recognizable by two small protuberances on the last tergite (Fig. 3). M. Hradský had so far only collected females. According to this author (Hradský 1962), females differ from females of other Central European species of the genus *Choerades* by presence of long and rectangularly bent hairs under the antennae, similar to




Figs 1–3. *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962), male: 1 – dorsal view, 2 – lateral view, 3 – detail of the last abdominal tergite with two protuberances. Body length 13 mm. Photographs by P. Marhoul (1–2) and J. Růžička (3).
Obr. 1–3. *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962), samec: 1 – dorsální pohled, 2 – laterální pohled, 3 – detail dvou výčnělků na posledním zadečkovém tergitu. Délka těla 13 mm. Fotografie P. Marhoul (1–2) a J. Růžička (3).

those of males (Fig. 2). On the basis of previous records of one or a few collected specimens (Geller-Grimm et al. 2003, Boeraeve et al. 2019) it seems, that the species is very locally distributed in the warm part of Central Europe. In Germany it is categorized as an extremely rare species (Wolff et al. 2018). Due to its sporadic occurrence, further faunistic research is needed.

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## SOUHRN

Během návštěvy obory Soutok na Břeclavsku byl zjištěn výskyt nového druhu roupce (Diptera: Asilidae) pro území České republiky – *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962). Je považován za velmi vzácný druh (Wolff et al. 2018) a je znám pouze ze Slovenska, Německa a Maďarska (Hradský 1962, Geller-Grimm et al. 2003, Boeraeve et al. 2019). Jeden samec byl během poledne za slunečného počasí odchycen entomologickou síťkou na zlomené a osluněné části solitérního listnatého stromu (obr. 4). Před odchycením se po vyrušení téměř ihned vrátil na původní místo.



Fig. 4. The finding place of *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962) at Soutok Game Reserve. Photograph by T. Kadlec.
Obr. 4. Místo nálezu roupce *Choerades castellanii* (Hradský, 1962) v oboře Soutok. Fotografie T. Kadlec.