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SECOND RECORD OF *ELLIPTEROIDES* (*PHOTOGONOMYIA*) *LIMBATUS* (VON ROSER, 1840) IN CROATIA (DIPTERA: LIMONIIDAE)

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Tillier, P. & Clévenot, P.: Second record of *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) in Croatia (Diptera: Limoniidae). Nat. Croat., Vol. 35, No. 2, _____, 2026, Zagreb.

Ellipteroides (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) is widely distributed across Europe and is particularly well documented in the Balkans. We report here the second record of this species in Croatia. A female specimen was collected in Medvednica Nature Park, north of Zagreb.

Keywords: Limoniidae, Chioneinae, Medvednica Nature Park

Tillier, P. & Clévenot, P.: Drugi nalaz vrste *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) u Hrvatskoj (Diptera: Limoniidae). Nat. Croat., Vol. 35, No. 2, _____, 2026, Zagreb.

Vrsta *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) je široko rasprostranjena u Europi i posebno dobro dokumentirana na Balkanu. Ovdje donosimo drugi nalaz te vrste u Hrvatskoj. Jedinka je opažena u Parku prirode Medvednica, sjeverno od Zagreba.

Ključne riječi: Limoniidae, Chioneinae, Park prirode Medvednica

Preliminary note: The initial title of this article was "First record of *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) in Croatia (Diptera: Limoniidae)". After submission, we became aware of a separate publication reporting the species from Croatia (KOLCSÁR *et al.*, 2026, in press). Our record therefore represents the second published record of *E.* (*P.*) *limbatus* from Croatia.

INTRODUCTION

Within the family Limoniidae, which currently comprises 670 species recorded in Europe, the genus *Ellipteroides* Becker, 1907 is poorly diversified in Europe, with only seven known species, two of which are endemic to the Iberian Peninsula (OOSTERBROEK, 2026). Four species are known from the Balkan Peninsula. In Croatia, only one species had been reported until very recently: *Ellipteroides* (*Ellipteroides*) *lateralis* (OOSTERBROEK, 2026). A second species was recently reported from the country, *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840) (KOLCSÁR *et al.*, 2026). Here, we report the second record of this rare and locally distributed species from Croatia.

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MATERIALS AND METHODS

On 19 July 2025, a short survey (approximately 30 minutes), primarily focused on Tipuloidea, was carried out near a small forest stream Kraljevec (Fig. 1), close to the Medvedgrad Fortress, in Zagreb (45.87603° N, 15.94006° E). Along the approximately 200 m stretch surveyed, the stream flowed in small cascades over a mineral substrate consisting of boulders, stones, gravel, and sand of varying grain size. It runs through a narrow valley within an open beech forest, providing the stream with abundant organic matter.

Specimens were collected mainly by sweep-netting in the herbaceous vegetation (particularly ferns) and sparse shrub vegetation, at an altitude of ca 520 m asl; a few individuals were also collected by hand.



Fig 1. Collection site of *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840), Medvednica Mt., Croatia, 19.vii.2025 (photograph Pierre Clévenot).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During this short survey, several species of Tipulomorpha were collected: *Limonia nubeculosa* Meigen, 1804 (1 male), *Epiphragma* (*Epiphragma*) *ocellare* (Linnaeus, 1760) (1 male), *Tipula* (*Lunatipula*) *helvola* Loew, 1873 (1 male), *Nigrotipula nigra nigra* (Linnaeus, 1758) (1 female), *Tipula* (*Acutipula*) *maxima* Poda, 1761 (1 male). Among them, a female specimen of *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* was identified.

Following the recent revision of *Ellipteroides* by KANIA-KŁOSOK *et al*. (2025), *E. limbatus* is now placed in the newly established subgenus *Photogonomyia*, as *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840). This subgenus comprises four European species, which can readily be identified on the basis of the structure of the male terminalia. As regards the females, those of *E.* (*P.*) *limbatus* exhibit a remarkable reduction of the ovipositor: the cerci are very short, scarcely extending beyond the lateral projections of tergite 10, while the hypogynial valves are highly reduced and barely visible at the apex of the abdomen. These characters may allow tentative identification of females in the field using a hand lens, although confirmation by detailed morphological examination is recommended.



Fig. 2. *Ellipteroides* (*Photogonomyia*) *limbatus* (von Roser, 1840), female ovipositor, lateral view. c = cercus; h.v. = hypogynial valve; l.p.t. = lateral projections of tergite 10. Scale bar: 0.5mm (photograph Pierre Tillier).

Ellipteroides (*P.*) *limbatus* is widely distributed throughout the Western Palaearctic region, but is generally scarce and localised in occurrence. The species has been recorded from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and very recently from Croatia (GRAF *et al.*, 2023; HUBENOV, 2021; KOC *et al.*, 2016; KOLCSÁR *et al.*, 2023; 2026; OOSTERBROEK, 2026; OOSTERBROEK & SIMOVA-TOSIC, 2004; QUINDROIT, 2025; STARÝ & ČELECHOVSKÝ, 2015; WIEDEŃSKA, 2017). The recent discovery of this species in Croatia is therefore consistent with its known distribution range.

This record of *Ellipteroides* (*P.*) *limbatus* in Croatia follows recent discoveries of additional Limoniidae species in the country (KOLCSÁR *et al.*, 2015; 2023; 2026). The Croatian fauna of Limoniidae now comprises 97 species [OOSTERBROEK, 2026; KOLCSÁR *et al.*, 2026, in press].

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