

FIRST RECORD OF *CHIRONOMUS (CHAETOLABIS) MACANI* FREEMAN, 1948 (DIPTERA: CHIRONOMIDAE) IN IRELAND FROM KILLARNEY, COUNTY KERRY

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Abstract

Chironomus (Chaetolabis) macani Freeman, 1948 (Insecta: Diptera, Chironomidae, Chironominae) is reported as new to the Irish fauna from net collections in July 2022 at Muckcross, Killarney, County Kerry, Southwest Ireland.

Key words: Chironomidae, *Chironomus*, *Chaetolabis*, *macani* Freeman, first record, distribution, Ireland.

Introduction

The genus *Chironomus* Meigen (1830) has several hundred species worldwide (Epler *et al.*, 2013). Three subgenera are currently recognised - the nominal subgenus *Chironomus* (Meigen, 1830), the subgenus *Chaetolabis* (Townes, 1945) and the subgenus *Lobochironomus* Ryser, Wulker and Scholl, 1985. In the western Palaearctic Region, approximately 85 species are recognised in the genus *Chironomus*, of which twenty-four are documented in Ireland, twenty three in the subgenus *Chironomus*, Meigen 1803 and one in the subgenus *Lobochironomus* (Murray *et al.*, 2015, 2018). Until now there are no records in Ireland of *Chaetolabis*.

Seven species of *Chironomus s. str.* are known from County Kerry (Murray *et al.*, 2015) in Hydrometric Area 22 (HA22 - see <www.epa.ie> for details of the 40 hydrometric areas of Ireland). The capture of an adult male *Chironomus (Chaetolabis) macani* Freeman, 1948 by net collection in July 2022 at Muckcross, Killarney, County Kerry, constitutes the first record of a species in the subgenus *Chaetolabis* in Ireland.

Five species of *Chironomus* (*Chaetolabis*) are known. The subgenus was established by Townes (1945) for two Nearctic species, *C. (C.) atroviridis* (Townes, 1945) and *C. (C.) ochreatus* (Townes, 1945) known only from Canada and the U.S.A. (Martin, 2014). A third species, *C. (C.) bitumineus* Langton and Vallenduuk, 2013, has a Holarctic distribution with Palaearctic records from Finland and Sweden and Nearctic records from Canada (Langton and Vallenduuk, 2013). A fourth species, *C. (C.) globulus* Filinkova and Belyanina, 1993 is known only from the Ural Mountains in West Siberia, Russia (Filinkova and Belyanina, 1993). The fifth species *C. (C.) macani* Freeman, 1948, described from England (Freeman, 1948), is now confirmed for Ireland. It has a Palaearctic distribution and is already known from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden and Ukraine.

New record for Ireland in County Kerry and HA22

***Chironomus* (*Chaetolabis*) *macani* Freeman, 1948**

KERRY: HA22 - Parkland, Muckcross, Killarney National Park (V977868), ♂Im, July 2022, leg. A. Mantell, det. P. H. Langton. A voucher specimen will be deposited in the National Museum of Ireland, Natural History, Dublin.

The adult male of *Chironomus* (*Chaetolabis*) *macani* was captured in flight by net in a parkland area with adjoining trees grading into flower-rich scrub and semi improved agricultural land. Larvae of *C. (C.) macani* live among the roots of wet *Sphagnum* moss in and adjacent to the littoral zone of lakes and ponds. With the record of this species in the Killarney National Park there are now 319 species of Chironomidae known from County Kerry, 285 species in Hydrometric Area 22 and records of a total of 523 species of Chironomidae are documented from Ireland.

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