

Chloromyia formosa and C. speciosa

Information compiled by Martin C. Harvey

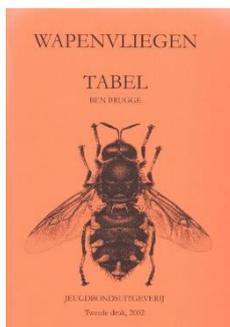
In Britain the soldierfly *Chloromyia formosa* (Broad Centurion) is a widespread and common species, the most frequently recorded species in the recording scheme. However, there is a second and very similar species of *Chloromyia* that is quite widespread in continental Europe, albeit mostly from southern and central countries.

C. speciosa is mentioned (but not illustrated) in at least one of Michael Chinery’s insect guides, and the recording has occasionally been sent records of it, although all have been in error so far. It may not be very likely to turn up in Britain (it has not yet been found in the Netherlands or Belgium), but if it did it could easily be overlooked among the abundant *C. formosa*, hence highlighting it here.

Genus Chloromyia

Translated from *Wapenvliegen tabel (Diptera : Stratiomyidae & Solvidae)*, by Ben Brugge; Jeugdbondsuitgeverij, 2002 (2nd edition).

- 1a The basitarsus of the middle and hind legs brownish. The wings are light brown. Females: hair between the eye facets pale. Males: head above the antennal insertions completely black. 7-9mm.
.....*Chloromyia formosa*
- 1b The basitarsus of the middle and hind legs is strikingly yellow. The wings are blackish. Females: hair between the eye facets black. Males: head just above the antennal insertions with two yellow triangles along the eye edge. 8-10mm.*Chloromyia speciosa*



“On the basis of the distribution data from Rozkosny, 1982, possibly to be expected in the Netherlands. The observations from western Germany are, in my opinion, not reliable. The observation of Ems probably entails Ems in Rhineland instead of in Lower Saxony. The flight time in Europe runs from late May to the end of August. The larva was found under the bark of rotting tree stumps. Also not known from Belgium, but on the basis of data from Rozkosny, 1982, to be expected (which, however, I doubt for the above reason).”

C. speciosa or *C. formosa* (males)? – additional information from Pietro Niolu at <http://www.entomologiitaliani.net/public/forum/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=276&t=5401>

	<i>formosa</i>	<i>speciosa</i>
Wings	clear	blackish
Hairs on head	less dense, pale hair mixed with dark	more dense, hairs darker
Legs	yellow 'knees' and dark tarsi	hind tarsi yellowish

There are a few photos on the web labelled as *C. speciosa*, and it is not always possible to be certain they are correctly identified. However, the clearest examples have noticeably yellow hind tarsi (especially the basitarsus but usually all the tarsi), and in the females there seems to be a clearly defined narrow blue stripe in the eye (as opposed to the much less well-defined and contrasting eye-colours of *C. formosa*).



Photo of male *C. speciosa* by Silvano showing the yellow mid and hind tarsi, from:

- https://www.naturamediterraneo.com/forum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=82187

Other examples – male:

- https://diptera.info/forum/viewthread.php?thread_id=55311&pid=236230

Females:

- https://diptera.info/photogallery.php?photo_id=520 (note yellow hind tibia and narrow band on eye)
- https://www.nahuby.sk/obrazok_detail.php?obrazok_id=572615#
- https://diptera.info/forum/viewthread.php?thread_id=69678 (unconfirmed)

Distribution map from Fauna Europaea: https://fauna-eu.org/cdm_dataportal/taxon/70034759-105c-4141-834a-e5e9fd1862a4#distribution (detailed locations and sources for these records are not given):

