Finnish flies of the family Therevidae

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An illustrated key for the 17 Finnish species of Therevidae is presented that includes six species recorded from neighbouring areas. Distributions of the Finnish species are discussed and presented in maps; evaluations concerning the threatenedness status of Finnish species are included.

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1. Introduction

Flies of the family Therevidae belong to the suborder Brachycera and are relatively large Diptera. Unlike Asilidae, a morphologically and biologically close family, adults of Therevidae are not predatory and lack the deep groove between the eyes characteristic of Asilidae.

In Finland, there has been very little information published on Therevidae. Frey (1911) listed some of the oldest records for the lower Brachyceran flies. In their exchange-score catalogue, Frey et al. (1941) recorded 13 species of Therevidae as being Finnish but using names that are currently invalid. Hackman’s (1980) checklist included 20 species of Therevidae.

After the turn of the new millennium, a new wave of dipterological interest has begun in Finland. As large and conspicuous flies, Therevidae can be considered a suitable group for research, but there has been a lack of updated taxonomic information. For example, the Therevidae key for the European part of Russia (Zaitsev 1988) leads to unreliable or inadequate identifications of Finnish Therevidae. Furthermore, a recent British book on lower Brachycera (Stubbs & Drake 2001) lacks many Finnish species. The most accurate key for determining Finnish Therevidae was presented by Lyneborg and Spitzer (1974); this key covers the Czech Republic fauna.

The purpose of this article is to provide an updated key for the Finnish Therevidae and some species found in the neighbouring countries. The distribution and habitat associations for each species are briefly discussed based on the few available distributional and ecological data. A preliminary understanding of the Finnish Therevidae fauna was obtained during the autumn 2003, the Finnish museum material of Therevidae was checked for a Brachycera checklist (Kahanpää & Winqvist 2005). Three species listed by Hackman (1980) appeared not to belong to the Finnish fauna: both European Cliorismia species had been recorded In Russian Karelia, and Thereva circumscripta (Loew) is a more southern European species. Now there are 17 species of Therevidae known from Finland.

There remains a lot to be discovered about this elusive fly family. New studies are needed to obtain a more profound understanding of the distri-
butions, ecological associations, and conservation status of Therevidae species in Finland.

2. Key to the Finnish species of Therevidae

The following key covers all the 17 Finnish Therevidae species and six additional species (listed within brackets) that have been found from Scandinavia, Russia or Baltic countries. This key is based on our studies and literature (Lyneborg & Spitzer 1974, Stubbs & Drake 2001, Zaitsev 1988).

1a First segment of antennae thicker than the pedicel and flagellum (Fig. 1A) 
   Dialineura anilis

1b All segments of antennae equally thick (Fig. 1B) 2

2a Face hairy 3
2b Face bare 6

3a Male: Tergites silvery pollinose and the hairs on abdomen silvery white  
   Female: Frons without callus 4

3b Male: Tergites without pollen to fully dusted with dirty yellow or grey pollen (usually with a dark anterior and lighter posterior region), hairs on abdomen mixed dark (black to brownish black) and light (yellow to white) 
   Female: Frons with a continuous or divided shiny black callus (frontal callus) Thereva

4a Knob of halteres light 5
4b Knob of halteres dark Spiriverpa lunulata

5a Male: Middle femora with usually 2 anteroventral bristles (Fig. 2) 
   Female: Erect hairs on tergites 5–8 black Acrosathe annulata

5b Male: Middle femora usually without anteroventral bristles  
   Female: Erect hairs on tergites 5–8 white [Acrosathe baltica]

6a Males 7
6b Females 11

7a Frons broader than anterior ocellus (Fig. 3A). Abdomen silvery pollinose or black with silvery pattern 8
7b Frons narrower than anterior ocellus (Fig. 3B). Abdomen silvery pollinose 9

8a Halteres black. Abdomen silvery pollinose Dichoglena nigripennis

8b Halteres yellow. Abdomen black, tergites with weak silvery triangles Pandivirilia eximia

9a Femora completely black from base to apex Psilocephala imberbis
9b Femora with yellow apex 10

10a Tip of aedeagus straight (Fig. 4A) [Cliorismia ardea]
10b Tip of aedeagus S-shaped (Fig. 4B) [Cliorismia rustica]
11a Femora completely black from base to apex
11b Femora with yellow apex  [C. ardea and C. rustica]
12a Tibiae and tarsi as dark as femora. Wing membrane with brownish border adjacent to wing veins  Dichoglena nigripennis
12b Tibiae and tarsi yellowish, lighter in contrast to femora. Wing membrane without brownish border adjacent to wing veins 13
13a Wing membrane yellow basally. Large species (12–18 mm) Pandivirilia eximia
13b Wing membrane completely transparent. Small species (8–10 mm) Psilocephala imberbis

Genus Thereva

1a Males  2
1b Females  14
2a All tergites light anteriorly, tergites completely dusted with dirty yellow or grey pollen  3
2b Anterior region of at least tergites 2–5 dark  4
3a Knob of halteres brownish black. Tip of aedeagus short (Fig. 5A)  Thereva cinifera
3b Knob of halteres yellowish brown. Tip of aedeagus long (Fig. 5B)  Thereva fulva
4a All tergites glossy black  Thereva atripes
4b At least part of the tergites matt  5
5a At least one posteroventral bristle in the basal part of the hind femora (Fig. 6)  6
5b The basal part of hind femora without posteroventral bristles  10
6a 2 pairs of dorsocentral bristles (Fig. 6). The basal part of hind femora with 3–4 posteroventral bristles (Fig. 7). The anteroventral bristles of the hind femora usually uniserial (Fig. 8A). Tip of aedeagus long curved (Fig. 5C)  Thereva inornata
6b 1 pair of dorsocentral bristles. The basal part of hind femora with 1–3 posteroventral bristles. Hind femora with additional bristles outside the normal anteroventral row (as in Fig. 8B)  7
7a Anterior part of tergites 4–5 with narrow dark band (more than half the lateral part of tergites 4–5 dusted with grey pollen)  8
7b Anterior part of tergites 4–5 with broad dark band (only half the lateral part of tergites 4–5 dusted with grey pollen)  9
8a Tergite 6 fully dusted with greyish pollen (dark anterior transverse band absent). Wing membrane greyish, veins light brown and crossveins weakly darkened. Hairs on the lower part of the occiput and parafacial mixed with white and black  Thereva unica
8b Tergite 6 incompletely dusted with greyish pollen (dark anterior transverse band present). Wing membrane whitish, veins dark brown and crossveins intensively darkened. Hairs on the lower part of the occiput and parafacial white  Thereva marginula
9a Mesonotum greyish brown and usually with
9b Mesonotum bluish gray and at most with a diffuse dark central line. Hairs on tergite 1 grey or yellowish medially. Tip of aedeagus long (Fig. 5E)  

10a Hairs on scutellum sparse and completely black. Hairs on abdomen predominantly black. Usually 1 dorsocentral bristle. Front femora anteroventrally usually without bristles  

10b Hairs on scutellum mixed yellow and black. Hairs on abdomen yellow laterally and black dorsally  

11a Anteroventral bristles of the hind femora multiserial (some bristles outside the normal anteroventral row) (Fig. 8B). Hairs on scutellum not exceptionally dense and mixed yellowish and black. Usually 1 dorsocentral bristle. Front femora with 1–4 anteroventral bristles  

11b Anteroventral bristles of hind femora uniserial (as in Fig. 8A). Hairs on scutellum dense and almost completely yellow. 2 dorsocentral bristles. Front femora with 2–7 anteroventral bristles  

12a 2–3 pairs of dorsocentral bristles (Fig. 7). Wing veins narrowly bordered by dark membrane. Front femora without anteroventral bristles. Mesonotum with indistinct longitudinal stripes  

12b 1 pair of dorsocentral bristles. Wing veins not bordered by dark membrane. Front femora with or without anteroventral bristles. Mesonotum with distinct or indistinct longitudinal stripes  

13a Front tibia longer than front femora. Head (in dorsal view) as broad as mesonotum. Front femora with anteroventral bristles. Mesonotum with distinct light longitudinal stripes  

13b Front tibia as long as front femora. Head (in dorsal view) broader than mesonotum. Front femora without anteroventral bristles. Mesonotum with indistinct light longitudinal stripes  

14a Shiny black frontal callus forming one narrow transverse band or divided into two separate calli  

14b One wide, usually large, shiny black frontal callus  

15a Frontal callus a narrow transverse band that is sometimes divided medially (Fig. 9A). Anteroventral bristles of the hind femora uniserial (as in Fig. 8A)  

15b Frontal callus clearly separated on two parts (Fig. 9B). Anteroventral bristles of the hind femora nearly uniserial, but irregularly arranged towards base (as in Fig. 8B)  

16a All tergites light anteriorly, tergites completely dusted with dirty yellow or grey pollen  

16b Anterior region of at least tergites 2–5 dark  

17a Knob of halteres blackish. Tergite 7 dusted with grey pollen. The frontal callus separated from the anterior ocellus (Fig. 9C)  

17b Knob of halteres yellowish. Tergite 7 glossy black and only laterally grey pollinose. The frontal callus extends to the anterior ocellus (Fig. 9D)  

18a The frontal callus extends dorsally around the ocellar tubercle (Fig. 9E)  

18b The frontal callus extends dorsally at most to the anterior ocellus  

19a Tibiae black. Wing membrane dark  

19b Tibiae yellowish. Wing membrane with dark areas only adjacent to wing veins, predominantly clear to translucent whitish grey  

20a 2–3 dorsocentral bristles (Fig. 7). Wing veins narrowly bordered by dark membrane. Frons and frontal callus narrower than in  

20b 1 dorsocentral bristle. Wing veins not bordered by dark membrane. Frons and frontal callus wider than in  

21a Anterior part of tergites 2–5 with dark band extending medially to posterior edge (posterior of tergites 2–4 with broken or nearly broken band of grey pollen). Frontal callus in  

21b Anterior part of tergites 2–5 with dark band extending medially near to posterior edge
(posterior of tergites 2–4 with complete band of grey pollen) 22

22a Frontal callus extends laterally to eye margin 23

22b Frontal callus separated from eye margin by a matt area 24

23a Spines on the tip of ovipositor broad and blunt (Fig. 10A). Mesonotum dark, brownish grey with distinct light longitudinal stripes. Frontal callus in Fig. 9G T. plebeja

23b Spines on the tip of ovipositor slender (Fig. 10B). Mesonotum light, bluish grey with distinct light longitudinal stripes. Frontal callus in Fig. 9H T. strigata

24a Knob of halteres yellowish brown. Anteroventral bristles of the hind femora multiserial (some bristles outside the normal anteroventral row) (as in Fig. 8B). Frontal callus separated from anterior ocellus. Wing membrane whitish, veins dark brown and crossveins bordered by dark membrane. Tergite 3 without contrasting line between anterior dark brownish part and posterior greyish part of the tergite 25

24b Knob of halteres blackish. Anteroventral bristles of the hind femora multiserial (some bristles outside the normal anteroventral row) (as in Fig. 8B). Frontal callus separated from anterior ocellus. Wing membrane greyish brown, veins light brown and crossveins not bordered by dark membrane. Tergite 3 without contrasting line between anterior narrow dark brownish part and posterior greyish part of the tergite T. nobilitata

24c Knob of halteres blackish. Anteroventral bristles of hind femora uniserial (as in Fig. 8A). Frontal callus separated from or extends to anterior ocellus. Wing membrane greyish brown, veins light brown and crossveins not bordered by dark membrane. Tergite 3 with contrasting line between anterior broad blackish part and posterior greyish part of the tergite T. marginula

25a Hairs on scutellum mixed black and yellowish. Frontal callus separated from the anterior ocellus (Fig. 9J) T. inornata

25b Hairs on scutellum yellow. Frontal callus extends to the anterior ocellus (Fig. 9K) T. handlirschi

3. Faunistic comments and the evaluation of threatened species

The following faunistic comments are based on checking the Finnish museum collections (Finn-
Table 1. The category in the evaluation of threatened species and the corresponding number of known locations, following Rassi et al. (2001).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Number of population locations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>Critically endangered</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EN</td>
<td>Endangered</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VU</td>
<td>Vulnerable</td>
<td>3–5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Near threatened</td>
<td>6–25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC</td>
<td>Least concern</td>
<td>&gt;25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ish Museum of Natural History in Helsinki (FMNH), Zoological Museum of University of Turku (MZT), Natural History Museum of Forssa, Natural History Section of Museum of Kuopio and Zoological Museum of University of Oulu) as well as numerous private collections. Therevidae specimens collected during various entomological projects have been identified and used in these evaluations.

After the faunistic text for each species, we categorize each species based on evaluation criteria for threatened species approved by the World Conservation Union in 1994 (Rassi et al. 2001) and list geographical provinces from which each species has been recorded (Fig. 11). The most frequently used category for Finnish Therevidae species, and many other insects, is criterion D, or “population restricted”. Criterion D is, however, a common category because limited resources are available in Finland to monitor populations of threatened insect species. Because collecting activities in Finland were relatively infrequent until the turn of the century, lower categories are also preferred for species represented by few specimens in collections. Category A, “reduction of population size,” is used for one species: Thereva strigata. The categories in the evaluation of threatened species are shown in Table 1. Species distributions (Fig. 12) were estimated using locality records and distributions of Finnish vegetation zones (Fig. 13).

Fig. 12. Distribution maps of the Finnish species (A) A. annulata, (B) D. anilis, (C) D. nigripennis, (D) P. eximia, (E) P. imberbis, (F) S. lunulata, (G) T. cinifera, (H) T. fuscinevis, (I) T. handlirschi, (J) T. inornata, (K) T. lanata, (L) T. microcephala, (M) T. nobilitata, (N) T. plebeja, (O) T. strigata, (P) T. unica and (Q) T. valida.
Acrosathe annulata (Fabricius, 1805)
A species commonly found on dunes and in other sandy biotopes throughout the country. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. Ab, N, Ka, St, Ta, Sa, Ki, Oa, Tb, Sb, Kb, Om, Ok, Oba, Obb, Ks, Lkor, Li.

Acrosathe baltica Andersson, 1994
This recently described species is found from the Baltic Islands in Sweden. It is possible to find A. baltica on dunes from the south coast of Finland. The male of A. baltica can be reliably differentiated from A. annulata only by genitalic features. (Andersson 1994).

Cliorismia ardea (Fabricius, 1794)
The only specimens have been recorded from Karelia, Russia. C. ardea is thus deleted from the Finnish checklist. It is possible to find C. ardea from sandy riverbanks in southeastern Finland near the Russian border.

Cliorismia rustica (Panzer, 1803)
The only specimens have been recorded from Karelia, Russia. C. rustica is thus deleted from the Finnish checklist. Also this species can be found from sandy riverbanks in southeastern Finland near the Russian border.

Dialineura anilis (Linnaeus, 1761)
A species commonly found on dunes and in other sandy biotopes throughout the country. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. Ab, N, St, Ta, Sa, Ki, Oa, Tb, Sb, Kb, Om, Ok, Obb, Ks, Lkor, Li.

Dichoglena nigripennis (Ruthe, 1831)
A rare species of which only seven scattered records from various parts of the country are known. Since there is only one record made in the recent years, Ok: Sotkamo (Söderman & Leinonen 2003), the species is assessed to the category EN and the known population and the possible new findings will need active monitoring. Ab, N, St, Kb, Ok, Oba.

Pandivirilia eximia (Meigen, 1820)
A rather common species found mostly in moist meadows in the southern and central Finland, the most northern locality being Kuusamo. Females are more commonly found than males. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. Ab, N, Ka, St, Ta, Sa, Ki, Tb, Sb, Kb.

Psilocephala imberbis (Fallén, 1814)
A species historically distributed evenly almost throughout the country, but the records of which are predominantly old. Since there are only three records made in the latest 30 years, Ta: Tammela (Mattila 1998), Ta: Ylöjärvi (Mattila 2001) and Ta: Lammi (Ahlroth 2002), the species is assessed to the category VU and the last known populations and the possible new findings will need monitoring. Ab, N, St, Ta, Sa, Ki, Oa, Tb, Sb, Kb, Om, Ok, Oba, Li.

Spirerpa lunulata (Zetterstedt, 1838)
At least predominantly a northern species found in sandy biotopes. The few Finnish museum specimens of this species had been loaned by Donald Webb, who reported S. lunulata from the provinces Ks–Li in a letter. He also reported an older record from N: Lappohja, which could be a labelling mistake. There are only two new records of this species, Li: Utsjoki (Haarto 1994) and Lkor: Savukoski (Bagge 2003), but the collecting activity has been low in northern Finland. This species is assessed to the category VU and does not need active monitoring. (N,) Ks, Lkor, Li.

Thereva atripes (Loew, 1847)
An eastern species distributed from the southern Siberia to the St. Petersburg area (Zaitsev 1988). It might be possible to find T. atripes from the southeastern Finland near the Russian border.

Thereva cinifera (Meigen, 1830)
In addition to the old known population, there are three new populations of this scarce species found, Ab: Dragsfjärd (Clayhills et al. 1996), N: Hanko (Haarto 1996) and N: Helsinki (Kahanpää 2003). All these localities are from the southwestern coast. This species is probably connected with the Baltic sandy shores in Finland. It is assessed to the category VU and needs monitoring. Ab, N, St.
[Thereva circumscripta] Loew, 1847
The specimens determined as *T. circumscripta* turned out to belong to the species *T. valida* Loew. *T. circumscripta* is thus deleted from the Finnish checklist.

[Thereva fulva] Meigen, 1804
There was one specimen misidentified as *T. fulva* in the collection of FMNH. This is a Central European species distributed north to the St. Petersburg area (Zaitsev 1988). It might be possible to find *T. fulva* from the south coast of Finland.

*Thereva fuscinervis* Zetterstedt, 1838
A rather commonly found species predominantly in the northern Finland, but there are two specimens from *Ab* in the MZT, which were collected by Lahtiperä in the 1950's. These southern records are probably labelling mistakes. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. (*Ab*) Obb, Ks, Lkoc, Le, Li.

*Thereva handlirschi* Kroeber, 1912
One of the commonest species of the genus distributed in the southern Finland. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. *Al, Ab, N, Ka, St, Ta, Sa, Oa*.

*Thereva inornata* Verrall, 1909
A rather common species in the southern and central Finland, but may be commonest in the east. This species occurs mainly in sandy biotopes. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. *Al, Ab, N, St, Ta, Sa, Kl, Tb, Sb, Kb, Ok*.

*Thereva lanata* Zetterstedt, 1838
One of the commonest species of the genus in Finland distributed especially abundant in the north. This species occurs mainly in sandy biotopes. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. *Ab, N, Ka, Ta, Sa, Kl, Tb, Sb, Kb, Om, Ok, Oba, Obb, Ks, Lkoc, Lkor, Le, Li*.

[Thereva marginula] Meigen, 1820
A South and Central European species distributed north to the southern Sweden. It might be possible to find *T. marginula* from the south coast of Finland.

*Thereva microcephala* (Loew, 1847)
This species is distributed along the coast. *T. microcephala* is found in forests in the Central Europe (Keil 2003) and also in Finland the new records of this species have been made in moist forests. Despite the few records made, the species might thus be less vulnerable than many other species in the genus. This species is assessed to the category VU and the last known populations will need monitoring. *Al, Ab, N, Om*.

*Thereva nobilitata* (Fabricius, 1775)
A species historically thought to be common in Finland (Frey 1911) but it has often been mixed with *T. handlirschi* (Kroeber). There are only four certain records from Finland, all from dry or sandy biotopes near the coast: *Al*: Kökar (Hellén), *Ab*: Korppoo (Panelius 1961), *Ab*: Dragsfjärd (Haarto 1994), *Om*: Lohtaja (Ahola 2004). This species is assessed to the category VU. The last known populations and the possible new findings will need monitoring. *Al, Ab, Om*.

*Thereva plebeja* (Linnaeus, 1758)
A dark *Thereva* species distributed evenly and commonly in the southern and central parts of Finland. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. *Al, Ab, N, Ka, St, Ta, Sa, Kl, Oa, Tb, Om, Ok*.

*Thereva strigata* (Fabricius, 1794)
A very rare species connected with sandy biotopes and known only from the south. There are no records of this species after the year 1943. It is possible that *T. strigata* is actually extinct from Finland, but because of the limited collection activity it might be overlooked. At this stage it is assessed to the category CR. If a population of *T. strigata* is found again from Finland, then the population will need active monitoring. *Al, Ab, N*.

*Thereva unica* (Harris, 1780)
In addition to the old known population in Hanko area, *N*: Tvärminne, there are two new populations found, *Ok*: Sortkamo (Söderman & Leinonen 2004) and *Om*: Sotkamo (Varpenius 2004). This species might be connected with dry heath forests and sandy biotopes. *T. unica* is assessed to the category VU and the last known populations
and the possible new findings will need monitoring. \textit{N, Om, Ok}.

\textit{Thereva valida} Loew, 1847
This is a rather common species in the southern and central Finland. This species is assessed to the category LC and does not need monitoring. \textit{Al, Ab, N, St, Ta, Sa, Kl, Kb, Om, Oba}.

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