

***Chironomus (C.) savoreljela* nom. nov. - replacement name for *Chironomus inermifrons* auct. nec Goetghebuer, 1921 (Diptera: Chironomidae, Chironominae)**

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<https://zoobank.org/06D0B144-6B31-4F9C-8B9C-0E22BEAA4DB2>

**Abstract**

The binomial *Chironomus (C.) savoreljela* nom. nov. is proposed as replacement name for *Chironomus inermifrons* auct. (sensu Pinder, 1978) nec Goetghebuer, 1921

**Introduction**

While assembling data of species in the subfamily Chironominae, comprising Part 3 of the “World Catalogue of Chironomidae” that was initiated by the late Patrick Ashe (deceased 2022) and of which three parts are published (Ashe & O’Connor (2009, 2012; Ashe, Murray & O’Connor, 2024), a need became apparent to address taxonomic issues for the Palaearctic species *Chironomus inermifrons* described from Belgium by Goetghebuer (1921: 151). The epithet *inermifrons* had already been used by Kieffer (1916: 108) for a different, much smaller, species *Tendipes inermifrons* Kieffer from Tainan (Formosa) in the Oriental Region and thus the binomial *Chironomus inermifrons* as applied by Goetghebuer (1921), became a permanently invalid junior primary homonym of *Tendipes inermifrons* Kieffer. However, mistaken use of “*Chironomus inermifrons*” Goetghebuer 1921 continued in Palaearctic literature, notably in the determination keys of Goetghebuer (1928), Edwards (1929), Goetghebuer in Goetghebuer & Lenz, (1937), Coe (1950), Pinder (1978), Langton & Pinder (2007) and in distribution listing of Fauna Europaea by Fittkau, Schlee & Reiss (1967), Lindeberg & Wiederholm (1979) and the current online Checklist of Diptera of the British Isles at [dipterists.org.uk](http://dipterists.org.uk). (updated 23 March 2025).

Significant additional taxonomic issues concerning the taxon were revealed following examination by M. Spies (Spies 2014; Sæther & Spies, 2013) of the Goetghebuer (1921) holotype material in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Brussels (IRSNB) and of voucher specimens from Britain (Scotland and England) in the collections of the Natural History Museum London (NMH) that had been determined by Edwards (1929) as *C. inermifrons* Goetgh. Two distinct species are now known to have been included under *C. inermifrons*. Examination of the holotype specimens in IRSNB revealed the fact that Goetghebuer’s *C. inermifrons* did not belong in *Chironomus* but was a true species of *Glyptotendipes* Kieffer, 1913 in the subgenus *Calochironomus* Heyn, 1993. In the text entry by Goetghebuer (1928: 66) for *C. inermifrons* the added entry in brackets with a question mark symbol “(? *longiforceps* Kieff.)” indicated questionable synonymy with the species described by Kieffer (1918). Spies (2014) has also suggested a possibility that *C. longiforceps* Kieffer, “as a recognised nomen dubium for some time that could be validated, is a good candidate valid name for replacement of “*inermifrons*” Goetghebuer in *Glyptotendipes (Caulochironomus)*. This situation is not addressed here and thus remains unresolved.

Examination of the voucher specimens from Britain in NMH London showed that they belonged to a different valid species of *Chironomus* that had been misidentified in Edwards (1929) as “*Chironomus inermifrons*” most likely from Goetghebuer (1928). The record of “*C. inermifrons*” in Edwards (1929; p383) was based on his examination of adult males collected in August 1919 by J. Waterston at Bonawe, Scotland. Edwards (l.c.) was obviously aware of unique features of the specimens examined and noted that the adults “*differ from all the other British species of this group in lacking the frontal tubercles and having no trace of emargination on the front of the pronotum*”. Additional records in Britain of “*C. inermifrons*”, as recognised by Edwards, were given in the determination keys of Coe, Freeman & Mattingly (1950) from specimens identified by Freeman collected by Macan (1949) at two locations in the English Lake District in July / August 1947. Voucher material of these specimens from Scotland and England form part of the extensive Diptera collection in the British Museum, Natural History, London (Cranston, 1976). The species continued

to be treated as *Chironomus inermifrons* Goetghebuer in the comprehensive keys of Pinder (1978) and as *Chironomus (C.) inermifrons* Goetghebuer in Langton & Pinder (2007) leading to repeated incorrect use of the binomial. Records of the species have been variously given as *C. inermifrons* Goetgh., “*C. inermifrons* sensu Pinder” or, as in the Fauna Europaea listing of Sæther & Spies (2013), under the unavailable pseudonym “*C. inermifrons* Pinder”. A replacement species epithet is required for this taxon as indicated by M. Spies (2014) and as pers com. in Jon Martin’s online *Chironomus* web page (see [chironomidae.net](http://chironomidae.net)), The name *Chironomus savoreljela* is proposed here to replace *Chironomus inermifrons* auct. (sensu Edwards, sensu Pinder, sensu Langton & Pinder) nec Goetghebuer, 1921.

***Chironomus (C.) savoreljela* nom. nov.**

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Type specimens (4 - not examined), Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK): det F. W. Edwards as “*C. inermifrons* Goetghebuer, 1921”. Argyllshire, Bonawe, nr. Taynuilt, August 1919, leg. J. Waterston, BM 1919-217; specimen 1, female, pinned, NHMUK 010210483, specimen 2, male, pinned, genital prep, NHMUK 010210484. Syntypes leg T.T. Macan, 1947, Lake District, Hawkshead, Claife Heights, Three Dubs Tarn, BM 1947-229: Specimen 3, female, pinned, 13/viii/47, NHMUK 010210485; specimen 4, male, pinned, 27/vii/47. NHMUK 010210486.

**Etymology.** The species epithet *savoreljela* is derived from the given names of the four youngest granddaughters of the author: Savannah, Orlagh, Elle-J and Eleanor.

**Diagnoses**

[Original described morphological features are augmented by additional observations on specimens from Norway by L. Paasivirta, O. Schnell and M. Spies, from Scotland by P. Langton and comments by J. Martin that were highlighted in e-mail communications in 2014/5 from M. Spies to P. Ashe who passed them on to the author].

Adult males are distinguished from other species of *Chironomus* by the following combination of characters: Body and legs dark. Frontal tubercles minute (15x10µm) or absent, A.R. less than 5. Thoracic acrostichal setae absent; Tarsal beard very short, L.R. about 1.4, Wing length 5–6 mm. Sternite I of abdomen with distinct, densely distributed, enlarged, elongate and thickened spinules that are distinctly different from the microtrichia on the other sternites. Tergite IX reticulate, 8-10 setae arising from 5-6 pale areas in a roughly oval pattern anterior to anal point base; Anal point narrow; Superior volsella sharp; Gonostylus narrow (Hypopygium: Fig 143a Pinder, 1978; Fig 200b, Langton & Pinder, 2007).

**Distribution**

The species has a Palaearctic distribution and is known from England, Scotland, Finland (Paasivirta, 2012), Norway (Lindegard, 1997) and possibly Spain (Soriano *et al.* 1997).

**Acknowledgements**

The author is grateful to the late Patrick Ashe for sharing his e-mail communications and to an anonymous reviewer for helpful comments.

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- Article submitted 27. November 2025, accepted by Peter H. Langton 9. January 2026, published 25. February 2026.