

Green Parasitic Fly

Gymnocheta viridis

Identification:

This 10mm long fly is the only 'greenbottle' that can confidently be identified in the field, and once known it is very distinctive - shiny green with bronze highlights, and very strongly bristly on the abdomen. The antennae tend to be held forward and the eyes are strongly hairy.

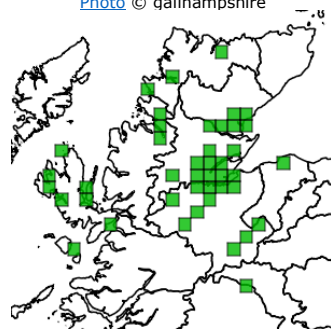


Gymnocheta viridis.

Photo © qailhampshire

Distribution:

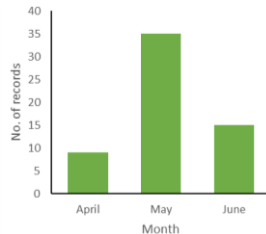
Widely distributed in Highland, but the family as a whole has been poorly studied here. Its early flight season encourages under-recording. Records from the north and west are especially welcome. It has been found at 390m in Glen Cannich.



The distribution of records of the *G. viridis* in the HBRG Database.

When to look for it:

Extreme dates are 2 April-20 June. It enjoys basking on sunlit tree-trunks and walls, when it can be studied at close range.



Similar species:

Two early spring *Eudasyphora* species, and the true greenbottles *Lucilia* are superficially similar, but lack the forward-pointing antennae and are far less bristly.

Notes:

Like all Tachinids, the larvae are parasitic, *Gymnocheta* on various moths. More information on greenbottles is on our [Focus on Highland Wildlife](#) pages.