

Introduction

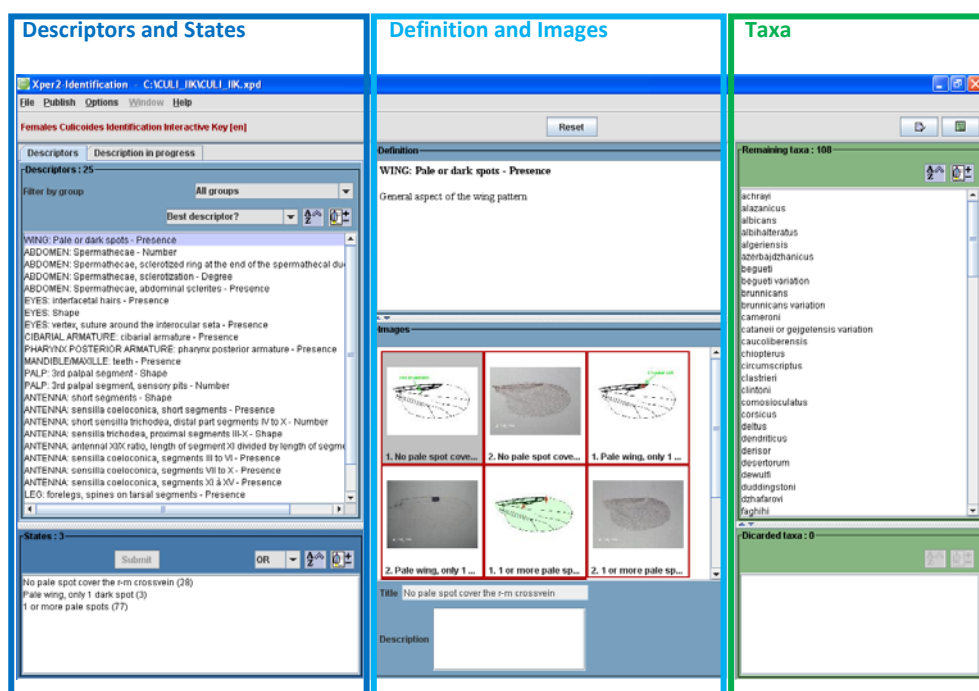
There are currently 108 taxa unit (100 species and 8 morphological variations) of biting midges *Culicoides* (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae) from the West Palearctic region. 73 Taxa are illustrated with 585 photographs and 72 with drawings in PDF file. Morphological characters are illustrated with scheme and photographs. This ILC is richly illustrated with a total of 837 photographs, scheme and drawings.

How to use IIKC?

The Xper2 platform is available in three languages (English, French or Spanish). Select in the “Options” menu, “General” and then “Languages”. However, the database IIKC is only available in English.

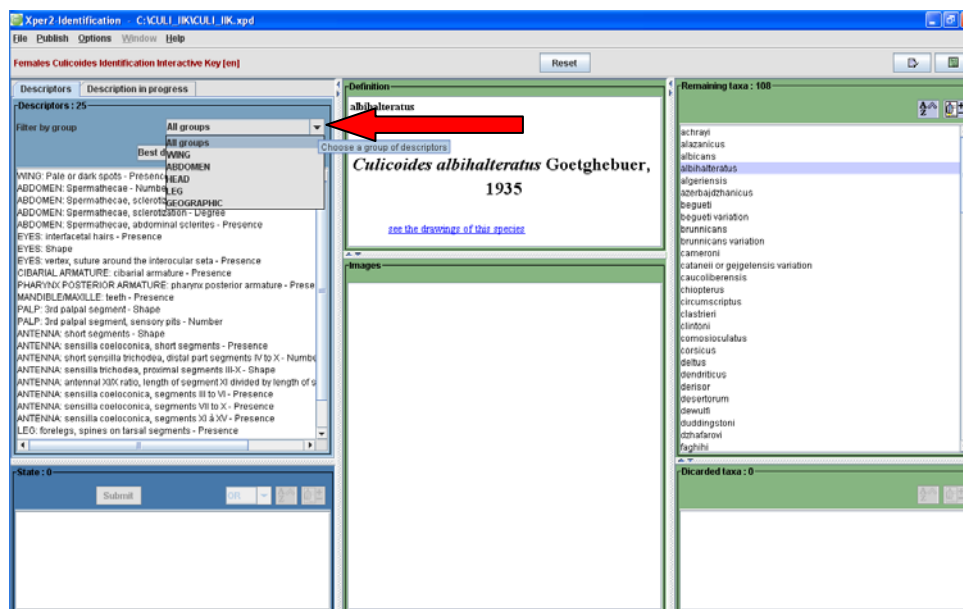
1. General view of the key

When running the identification, the remaining taxa are shown in the upper green windows. The discarded taxa are shown in the lower green windows. The list of descriptors used is shown in the lower blue windows. This list is updated after each descriptor state selection.

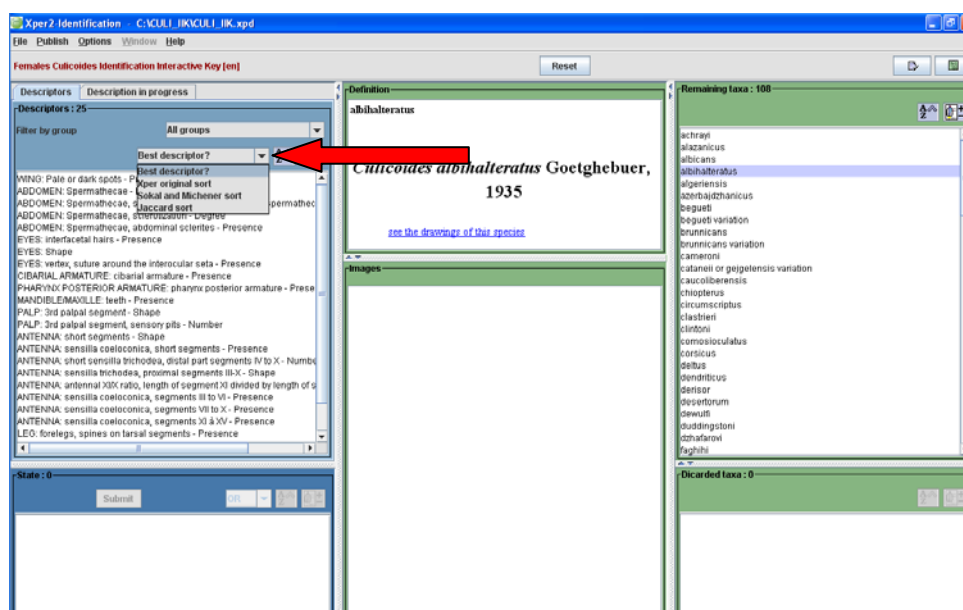


2. How to carry on the identification?

IIC is a multi-entry key therefore you can select a group of descriptors (wing, abdomen, leg, head, or geography). We recommend the use of “All groups”.

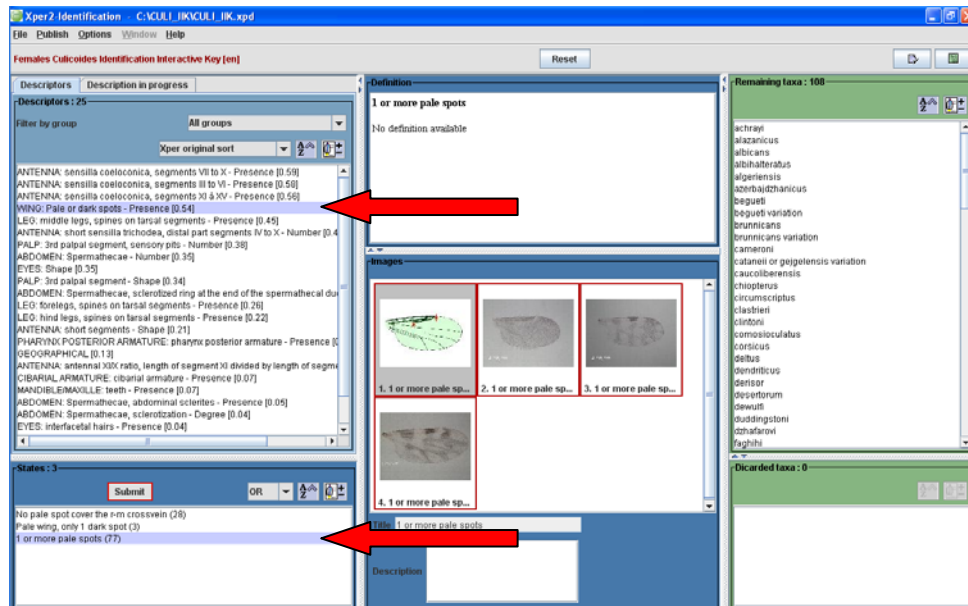


IIC allows short and quick identifications by classifying the descriptors according to their discriminating power. We recommend the use of the “Xper original sort”. When activated, a number into brackets appears for each descriptor (from 0 to 1) representing the discriminating power. Highest numbers are the most powerful descriptors.



Start the identification by choosing a descriptor you want to work with and select the state you observe. Then click on the “Submit” button. For a multiple selection, press the Ctrl button to select several states. At any moment you can **enlarge the pictures** by a double click on the left mouse button.

An operator list permit you to select XOR, AND, NOR, NXOR, etc. We do not recommend the use of operators other than “OR” (default).



To **start a new identification**, click on the “Reset” button to initialize the IHK. The classification according the “Xper original sort” has to be selected again.

3. Some useful tools:

At any moment during the identification, you can check

- your progress (go to “Description in progress” tab),
- select or delete any steps (use the red cross button),
- modify your selection (change the selected state and click on “Submit”),
- generate an history of the identification (go to the “History” button).

At the upper right corner, the left button generates the database properties. The right button opens a help file called **“Help text with some taxonomic recommendations for a correct use of the IHK”**.

