

## Markus Braun: A Wildlife Photographer in his own words

My name is Markus Braun, I am 34 years old and I live in the beautiful city of Kehl on the German-French border in southern Germany (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

Since early childhood my interest was focused on insects and spiders, and at the age of 12, I started keeping tarantulas, scorpions and mantids. My passion for macro photography began at the beginning of 2006 when I purchased my first digital compact camera, a Panasonic DMC-FZ20, with which I made the first steps. The world that was opened to me was so fascinating that shortly after I bought a digital SLR, a macro lens and a tripod.

My main photo motives are especially focused on our native insects and spiders as well as plants and landscapes, which always find

their way on my memory card. A hallmark is that all macro shots were taken with natural lighting and have given me the nickname "Makrofetischist". I let my results feed into the local wild life conservation and offer regular photo excursions with workshops. My principles: *"My nature photos are nature documentations which always show the truth. Too much image editing and interventions on an image do not show the truth any more. Also moving an insect for the "perfect" isolation is an intervention in nature and does not show the truth a nature photographer should be obliged to"*.

Currently I use a Canon EOS 7D with Canon 100mm f / 2.8 USM and the Sigma 150mm f / 2.8 HSM on a Manfrotto Tripod with Ball Head.



# Backyard Beauties

The elegant simplicity of a German macro photographer's local subjects prove that there is no need to travel to remote, exotic locations when looking for interesting creatures - with some patience and much passion they can be found right here, in our own gardens and meadows

<http://www.fotografie-markus-braun.de>



**Parasitic Fly**

Canon EOS 7D, 1/40 sec., f/8, ISO-400, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod

This parasitic fly *Ectophasia crassipennis* was waiting for the sun to get warm. Kaiserstuhl (BW), Germany.



### Marbled White and Green-veined White

Canon EOS 7D, 1/100 sec., f/6.3, ISO-500, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
A Marbled White *Melanargia galathea* and a Green-veined White *Pieris napi* sitting together on a yarrow (*Achillea*). Kehl (BW), Germany.



### *Chamaesphecia empiformis*

Canon EOS 400D, 1/8 sec., f/10, ISO-200, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
A moth *Chamaesphecia empiformis* (Family Sesiidae). Kehl (BW), Germany.

**Yellow Dung Fly**  
Canon EOS 400D, 1/3  
sec., f/6.3, ISO-200, Sigma  
Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
A Yellow Dung Fly  
*Scathophaga stercoraria*  
on a small flower.  
Kehl (BW), Germany.





**Alderflies mating**

Canon EOS 400D, 1/8 sec., f/11, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
Mating Alderflies *Sialis lutaria* in typical mating pose. The male was attracted by scent. Rheinau (BW), Germany.



**Banded Demoiselles**

Canon EOS 400D, 1/13 sec., f/11, ISO-200,  
Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8 + Extension Tubes, Tripod  
Two Males of the Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*  
chose the same flower to sleep. A rare moment, because  
they are territorial. Rheinau (BW), Germany.



**Two of a kind...**

Canon EOS 7D, 1/80 sec., f/5, ISO-500, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod

These two Chalkhill Blue *Polyommatus coridon* chose the same *Achillea* inflorescence to sleep. Kehl (BW), Germany.

**Goldenrod Crab Spider**

Canon EOS 400D, 1/30 sec., f/9, ISO-200, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod

A Goldenrod Crab Spider *Misumena vatia* with its catch - a Green-veined White. Kehl (BW), Germany.





**Fresh Darter**  
Canon EOS 400D, 1/15 sec., f/10, ISO-200, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod. Darter (possibly *Sympetrum striolatum*?) emerging as an adult. Kehl (BW), Germany.



**Wasp Spider spiderling**  
Canon EOS 7D, 1/10 sec., f/5.6, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod. A little spiderling of the Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi* waiting for its prey. Typical for this species is the zigzag shape called the *stabilimentum* at the center of the web. Kehl (BW), Germany.





**Banded Demoiselle**

Canon EOS 400D, 1/3 sec., f/11, ISO-200, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod

A male of the Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* spreading its wings like a helicopter. Kehl (BW), Germany.



**Neighborhood**

Canon EOS 7D, 1/30 sec.,  
f/6.3, ISO-200, Sigma  
Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
Seven-Spot Ladybird  
*Coccinella septempunctata*  
and a Blue-tailed Damselfly  
*Ischnura elegans* on a young  
Poppy. Kehl (BW), Germany.

**Ichneumonid Wasp**

Canon EOS 7D, 1/20 sec.,  
f/10, ISO-400, Sigma  
Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
This beautiful Ichneumonid  
Wasp *Cosmoconus*  
*nigriventris* I found near  
the river Rhein.  
Kehl (BW), Germany.



**Blue-tailed Damselfly**

Canon EOS 400D, 1/200 sec., f/6.3, ISO-200, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
A Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* eating a Caddisfly. Kehl (BW), Germany.



### European Praying Mantis

Canon EOS 7D, 1/80 sec., f/8, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
 This female of the European Praying Mantis *Mantis religiosa* was watching my steps. This fascinating insect is very rare in Central Europe and on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as a vulnerable species. Kaiserstuhl (BW), Germany.

### Tachina Fly

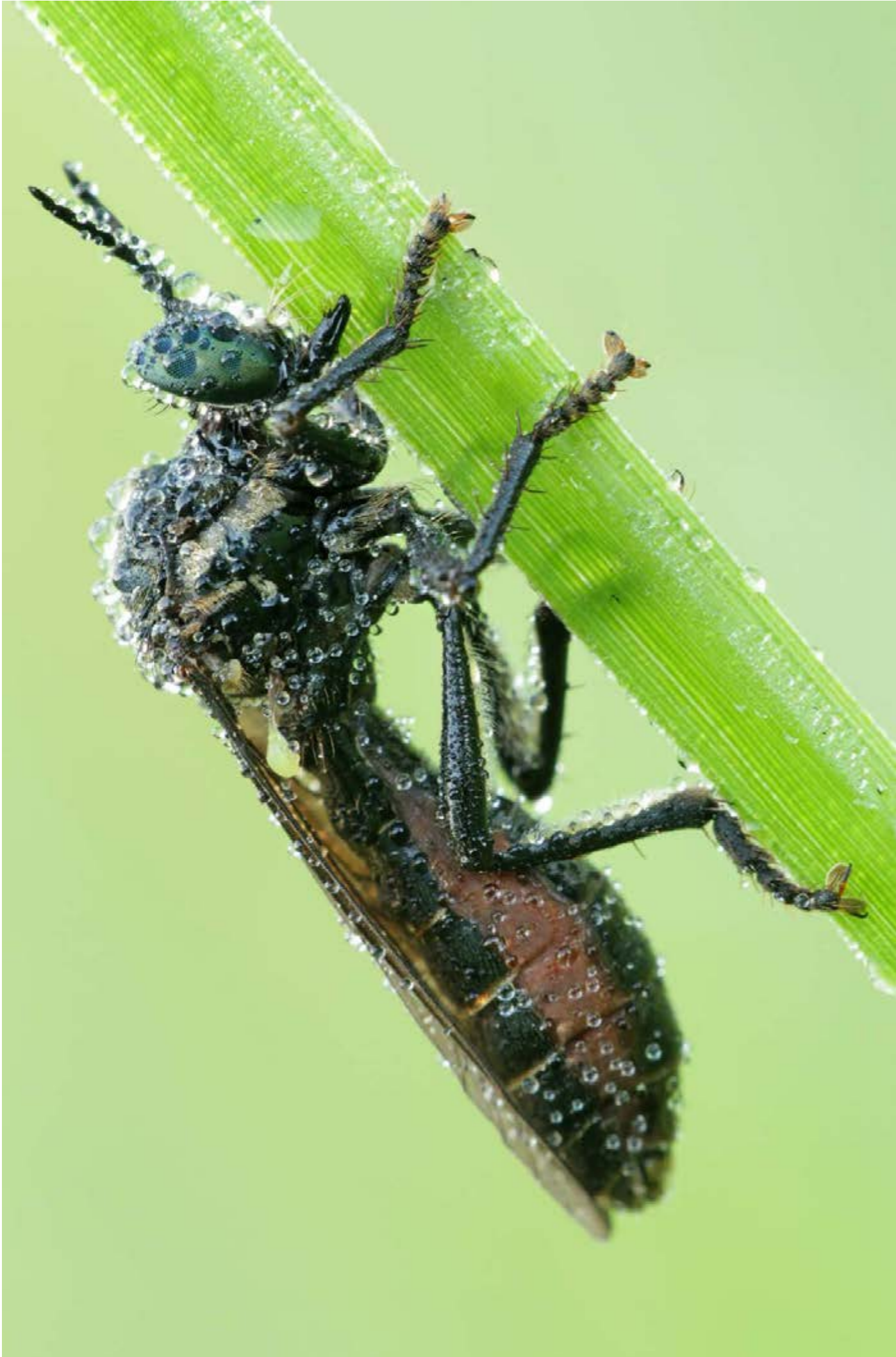
Canon EOS 7D, 1/2 sec., f/11, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
 A Tachina Fly (Family Tachinidae) sitting on a *Zebrina detrita* snail. Kaiserstuhl (BW), Germany.



**Thick-Legged Flower Beetle**

Canon EOS 7D, 1 sec., f/6.3, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
A Thick-Legged Flower Beetle *Oedemera nobilis* is waiting for the sun to dry the dew drops. Only males have the thick legs. Kehl (BW), Germany.





### Robber Fly

Canon EOS 7D, 3.2 sec.,  
f/8, ISO-100, Sigma Macro  
150mm 2.8 + Extension  
Tubes, Tripod.  
Robber Fly (Family Asilidae)  
with some dew drops on it.  
Kehl (BW), Germany.



### Mayfly

Canon EOS 7D, 1/5 sec.,  
f/10, ISO-100, Sigma  
Macro 150mm 2.8, Tripod  
Mayfly *Ephemera vulgata*  
with fine dew drops at  
sunset. Kehl (BW), Germany.



**Small Heath**

Canon EOS 7D, 0.8 sec., f/6.3, ISO-100, Sigma Macro 150mm 2.8 + Extension Tubes, Tripod  
A very wet Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* waiting for the sun. Kehl (BW), Germany.