

PSEUDOZARBA BIPARTITA (HERRICH-SCHÄFFER, 1850) (LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE), A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES FOR THE FAUNA OF CROATIA

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Koren, T.: *Pseudozarba bipartita* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1850) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), a new genus and species for the fauna of Croatia. *Nat. Croat. Vol.*, 27, No. 2, 347-349, 2018, Zagreb.

During a survey of the moths of Lastovo Islands Nature Park, four specimens of the owlet moth *Pseudozarba bipartita* were observed and collected in Prgovo Polje on Lastovo island. This is the first report of the species *P. bipartita* in Croatia and the north-westernmost record in the Balkan Peninsula. The closest known populations are from Albania and Macedonia.

Key words: Dalmatia, Lastovo, moth survey, first record

Koren, T.: *Pseudozarba bipartita* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1850) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), novi rod i vrsta za faunu Hrvatske. *Nat. Croat. Vol.* 27, No. 2, 347-349, 2018, Zagreb.

Tijekom istraživanja noćnih leptira Parka prirode Lastovsko otočje, opažene su i sakupljene četiri jedinke sovice *Pseudozarba bipartita* na lokaciji Prgovo Polje, Lastovo. Ovo je prvi nalaz *P. bipartita* u Hrvatskoj i najsjeverozapadniji nalaz na Balkanskom poluotoku. Najbliže znane populacije su u Albaniji i Makedoniji.

Ključne riječi: Dalmacija, Lastovo, istraživanje noćnih leptira, prvi nalaz

In the last decades several quite extensive owlet moth (Noctuidae) surveys were carried out in different parts of the Croatia, like Dalmatia (MLADINOV, 1974, 1975), Gorski Kotar (KUČINIĆ *et al.*, 1993), Rijeka and Kvarner areas (KUČINIĆ, 1998). Recently, some small regions of Croatia were studied in more detail: Vransko jezero (SAVKOVIĆ, 2001), island of Krk (HABELER, 2008) and Kopački Rit (VIGNJEVIĆ *et al.*, 2010). Still, much of the mainland and most of the islands remain without any systematic surveys or any data in general.

The surveys of new and previously unexplored parts of Croatia commonly result in new country records like *Synthymia fixa* from the island of Šćedro (KOREN & LAUŠ, 2012), *Antitype suda* from Mt Biokovo (MRNJAVČIĆ VOJVODA *et al.*, 2014) and *Chersotis rectangula* from Mt Ivanjšćica (KOREN & GOMBOC, 2015).

The genus *Pseudozarba* Warren, 1914 consists of at least 13 species, only one, however, *Pseudozarba bipartita* (Herrich-Schäffer, 1850) occurring in the southern parts of Europe. Other species inhabit the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa and Asia (FIBIGER *et al.*, 2009). *Pseudozarba bipartita* is distributed from northern Africa, through southern Europe, including south Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Greece and Bulgaria. In Asia it is known from Turkey and Israel (FIBIGER *et al.*, 2009). This species inhabits thermophilous habitats, maquis, ruderal areas and open steppes. Adults fly in two generations, from June to October. The early stages of this species are still unknown (FIBIGER *et al.*, 2009).

In 2018, we conducted the first preliminary moth survey of a previously almost totally unexplored island, Lastovo. Lastovo Island belongs to the central Dalmatian archipelago and is a part of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County. It is a medium sized island with an area of 46.87 km². The climate on the island is Mediterranean, with moist winters and warm and dry summers.

Moths were surveyed using pyramidal UV light traps, with six traps used per locality. They were in operation usually for 4 hours after dusk. During the moth surveys, four specimens of *P. bipartita* (Fig. 1) were attracted to the light traps and collected in Prgovo Polje, Lastovo (42°45'13.3"N 16°55'00.0"E) on 19th July 2018. The locality Prgovo Polje is one of several larger fields present on the island. It consists of arable fields (partly abandoned), small patches of dry grasslands and vineyards surrounded on both sides by *Quercus ilex* forests.

The collected specimens were set, identified, and stored in the private collection of the first author (Koren, Zagreb). The specimens were identified using (FIBIGER *et al.*, 2009).

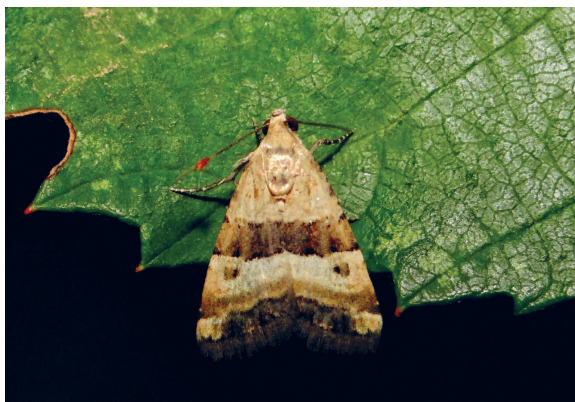


Fig. 1. *Pseudozarba bipartita* from Prgovo polje, Lastovo Island (photo by T. Koren).

Pseudozarba bipartita represents a new genus and species for the moth fauna of Croatia, and the north-westernmost record in the Balkan Peninsula. The closest known populations are located in the Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (BESHKOV, 2000), Bulgaria (GANEV, 1982), Albania (BESHKOV, 2018) and south-eastern Italy (FIBIGER *et al.*, 2009).

This record from Lastovo island shows the importance of visiting the previously unexplored areas, and the need for further surveys. While the butterfly fauna of the Adriatic islands is strongly correlated with the mainland fauna, and usually very depleted (WITHRINGTON & VEROVNIK, 2008), it is possible that some of the Adriatic islands are the only suitable habitats for some moth species. Additional surveys of the island of Lastovo and the neighbouring islands should result in the finding of more localities for *P. bipartita* in Croatia.

I am grateful to Lastovo Islands Nature Park for financial support for the surveys, and to Ana Štih and Boris Lauš for company during field trips.

Received September 4, 2018

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