

NEW RECORDS OF *CYDALIMA PERSPECTALIS* (WALKER, 1859) (LEPIDOPTERA, CRAMBIDAE) FROM ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

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In this contribution, we report new records of the invasive moth *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) from Albania and Kosovo. Previously, it has been reported from all over the European continent, including all Balkan countries. During this investigation it has been observed at two sites in Albania, located in Kukës and Kavajë municipalities. From Kosovo we report four new sites where this species was observed, belonging to Klinë, Pejë and Prishtinë municipalities.

Keywords: Balkan Peninsula, Box tree moth, invasive species, *Buxus*

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U ovom priopćenju donosimo nove nalaze invazivne vrste šimširovog moljca *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) iz Albanije i Kosova. Dosad je bio zabilježen širom cijele Europe, uključujući sve zemlje Balkana. Tijekom ovog istraživanja zabilježen je na dva lokaliteta u Albaniji, na području općina Kukës i Kavajë. Na Kosovu donosimo četiri nova lokaliteta gdje je zabilježena ova vrsta, a koja se nalaze u općinama Klina, Peć i Priština.

Ključne riječi: Balkanski poluotok, šimširov moljac, invazivna vrsta, *Buxus*

The invasive box tree moth *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) which is native to Asia (HAMPSON, 1896; INOUE, 1982; PARK, 2008) was introduced to Europe through ornamental plants more than a decade ago. It is a phytophagous insect with two different adult forms (Fig. 1), the white one being the most common, the melanic form found to a lesser degree (MALLY & NUSS, 2010). The larvae mostly feed on the leaves, but also bark, of *Buxus* species. When the number of larvae is huge they can cause deflorations and at the end the withering and death of plants (MALLY & NUSS, 2010). In Asia, *Cydalima perspectalis* has three to five generations (WAN *et al.*, 2014), while in Europe it has only two generations (NACAMBO *et al.*, 2013). Adults have a lifespan of approximately up to two weeks. Adult moths are good flyers and their flight occurs at the end of May or beginning of June (OLEAN *et al.*, 2017). During the daytime they like to rest on box trees or surrounding plants.

It was reported from all countries in the Balkan Peninsula: Bosnia and Herzegovina (OSTOJIĆ *et al.*, 2015), Bulgaria (BESHKOV *et al.*, 2015), Croatia (KOREN & ČRNE, 2012), Greece (STRACHINIS *et al.*, 2015), Hungary (SÁFIÁN & HORVÁT, 2011), Montenegro (HRN-

čić & RADONJIĆ, 2014), Romania (SZEKELY *et al.*, 2011), Serbia (KONJEVIĆ *et al.*, 2015), Slovenia (SELJAK, 2012; MATOŠEVIĆ, 2013), not long after its first record in Europe (BRILLEN, 2007). It has been reported only recently from KOSOVO (GECI & IBRAHIMI, 2018), North Macedonia (NAČESKI *et al.*, 2018) and Albania (RAINERI *et al.*, 2017; BESHKOV & NAHIRNIĆ, 2019).

During this investigation, it has been observed from two localities in Albania: the first one in Kukës Municipality (42.066184 °N, 20.432038 °E, 355 m a.s.l.) and the second one in Kavajë Municipality (41.189000 °N, 19.558732 °E, 52 m a.s.l.) (Fig. 2). Both sites are located inside inhabited areas and *C. perspectalis* has been observed near light sources. In each case a single specimen of the melanic form was observed.

In this contribution we also report four new sites of *C. perspectalis* from Kosovo (Fig. 2): the first one in Klinë town (42.62558 °N, 20.580891 °E, 415 m a.s.l.), the second one in Pejë town (42.662866 °N, 20.330314 °E, 480 m a.s.l.), the third one in Prishtinë town (42.655982 °N, 21.162873 °E, 605 m a.s.l.) and the fourth one in Bardhosh village, Prishtinë Municipality (42.716087 °N, 21.147306 °E, 614 m a.s.l.). The first three sites are



Fig. 1. Two different forms of *Cydalima perspectalis*, left - melanic form from Klinë (photo by M. Musliu), right - white form from Prishtinë (photo by D. Geci).

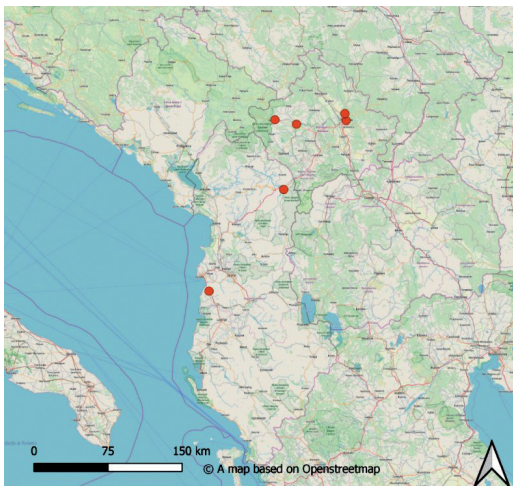


Fig. 2. Sites where *Cydalima perspectalis* was observed in Albania and Kosovo during this investigation.

in urban areas while the fourth one is located in a rural area, a few kilometers from Prishtina town. In Klinë, both forms were observed, while in other localities single specimens of the white form were observed.

All these records of *C. perspectalis* from Albania and Kosovo (Fig. 2) are the result of casual observations and it is still not known how widespread is this invasive species in both countries. However, considering the increased frequency of observations and existence of favorable habitats in both countries, we can conclude that it has either invaded large proportions of their territories or will do so soon.

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