

NEW RECORDS OF *SCELIPHRON DESTILLATORIUM* (ILLIGER, 1807) IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES (HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)

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New European records of the mud-dauber wasp *Sceliphron destillatorium* (Illiger, 1807) are reported through photographed material on the biodiversity web platform "iNaturalist". The first record for Lithuania is provided and the first occurrences of the species in the regions of Vitebsk, Minsk, Brest, and Vitsyebsk (Belarus), Kuyavian-Pomeranian (Poland), and Southern Albania (Albania) are given. Moreover, the first records for the islands of Lefkada and Ithaka are quoted.

Key words: Albania, Belarus, faunistics, Ithaka, Lefkada, Lithuania, Poland

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Rad donosi nove europske nalaze ose blatarice *Sceliphron destillatorium* (Illiger, 1807), koji se temelje na fotografijama s mrežne platforme za biološku raznolikost "iNaturalist". Daje se prvi nalaz za Litvu i prva pojavljivanja u regijama Vitebsk, Minsk, Brest i Vitsyebsk (Bjelorusija), Kujavia-Pomeranija (Poljska), te u južnoj Albaniji. Spominju se i novi nalazi za otoke Lefkada i Itaka.

Ključne riječi: Albanija, Bjelorusija, faunistika, Itaka, Lefkada, Litva, Poljska

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Sceliphron* Klug, 1801 consists of 35 species of mud-dauber wasp widespread in all continents except Antarctica (PULAWSKI, 2021). Seven species are listed in Europe, four of them indigenous (BARBIER, 2013) and three introduced — *Sceliphron curvatum* (Smith, 1870), *S. deforme* (Smith, 1856) and *S. caementarium* (Drury, 1773) (LECLERCQ, 1974; VAN DER VECHT, 1984; ČETKOVIĆ *et al.*, 2011).

One of the indigenous species is *S. destillatorium* (Illiger, 1807). Its biology is well known and, as in other species of *Sceliphron*, the females construct mud nests and provision them mainly with spiders (RUDOW, 1912; BERLAND, 1925; ROTARIDES, 1934; MAZEK-FIALLA, 1936; MYARTSEVA, 1968; BOHART & MENKE, 1976; PAGLIANO, 1985; CAMPADELLI & PAGLIANO, 1987; RANDUŠKA, 1993; CHATENOU *et al.*, 2012; FATERYGA & KOVBLYUK, 2014). The species has a widespread distribution in the Palaearctic region and in Europe it is known from Portugal, Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Malta, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, North Macedonia, Greece, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia (see MADER, 2013; PULAWSKI, 2021).

In the present note new records for *Sceliphron destillatorium* are given in some European countries, where the occurrence of the species was previously unknown or recorded only seldom.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All records are from the biodiversity platform website iNaturalist (www.inaturalist.org). In the material examined the following information is given: locality, coordinates, date, number of specimens, author of the photo. Geographical coordinates are in decimal degrees (datum WGS84). The uncertainty (abbreviated as un.) of data (in metres) is indicated according to the point-radius method (WIECZOREK *et al.*, 2004). All listed records have been recognized or confirmed by the author. *Sceliphron destillatorium* is easily recognizable compared to the European species of *Sceliphron*, both native and alien, since it has yellow tegulae, trochanters and femurs of hind legs with partially yellow, gaster (petiole excluded) completely black, and thorax with scutellum, mesopleuron and propodeum black (also the metanotum in the male) (see PAGLIANO & NEGRISOLO, 2005).

Material examined

Lithuania: Vilnius county, Vilnius, 54.606389° N 25.167222° E (un. Not recorded), 16.VII.2021, 1 specimen, photo by Ramunas Mileris; *idem*, 54.713485° N 25.267167° N (un. = 4 m), 13.VII.2021, 1 specimen (Fig. 1), photo by Arūnas Juknevičius.

Poland: Kuyavian-Pomeranian voivodeship, Lipno county, 52.638607° N 19.400403° E (un. = 349 m), 22.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by "inczi89".

Belarus: Vitebsk voblast, Polotsk District, 55.527997° N 28.671079° E (un. = 13 m), 21.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Ekaterina Kukuts; Minsk voblast, Smalyavichy District, 54.095262° N 28.329381° E (un. = 8430 m), 5.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by "halinaa"; Mahilyow voblast, Hlusk District, 52.725723° N 28.769648° E (un. = 60 m), 11.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Daria Dmitrenok (specimen also collected by Daria Dmitrenok); Brest voblast, Drahichyn District, 52.323463° N 24.919458° E (un. Not recorded), 18.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Darya Trush; Vitsyebsk voblast, Vyerkhnyazdvin'sk, 55.565224° N 28.226036° E (un. Not recorded), 10.VIII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Alla Moiseyenko.

Albania: Southern Albania region, Berat county, Beratit, 40.708186° N 19.94409° E (un. = 26 M), 3.VII.2018, 1 specimen, photo by Jakob Fahr; *idem*, Vlorë county, Vlorë, 40.487133° N 19.477387° E (un. = 500 m), 31.V.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Aleksander Golemaj; *idem*, 40.486647° N 19.477163° E (un. Not recorded), 12.VI.2018, 2 specimens, photo by Aleksander Golemaj; *idem*, 40.486526° N 19.477147° E (un. = 500 m), 20.V.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Aleksander Golemaj; *idem*, 40.072883° N 19.828691° E (un. = 238 m), 1 specimen, photo by Eridan Xharahi.

Greece: Lefkada island, Lefkada city, 38.828981° N 20.708202° E (un. = 2 m), 13.VII.2021, 1 specimen, photo by "Iamprisdimitris"; near Kariotes, 38.794228° N 20.71438° E (un. = 6 m), 23.VI.2019, 1 specimen, photo by Papageorgiou Nikolaos; *idem*, 38.790527° N 20.712664° E (un. = 2 m), 7.VII.2020, 1 specimen, photo by Papageorgiou Nikolaos; Ithaka island, Vathy, 38.364466° N 20.723379° E (un not recorded), 25.V.2020, 2 specimens, photo by "Panos90".



Fig. 1. Specimen of *Sceliphron destillatorium* from Vilnius (Lithuania) (photo Arūnas Juknevičius).

DISCUSSION

With the present work, the first record of *S. destillatorium* for Lithuania is provided. Moreover, new occurrence records for some countries with sparse faunistic information are given.

In Belarus the only region in which the occurrence of *S. destillatorium* has previously been reported is Mahilyow Province (ARNOLD, 1902). Subsequently, SHLYAKHTENOK & SKIBINSKA (2002) and SHLYAKHTENOK (2013) cited the species in the list of those present in Belarus, but with no specific locality. In the aforementioned records from Belarus, the first occurrences of this mud-dauber wasp in the Vitebsk, Minsk, Brest, and Vitsyebsk regions (voblasts) are given.

In Albania the occurrence of *S. destillatorium* was reported only by MAIDL (1922) from Durrës and Kukës: records from Berat and Vlorë counties are the first ones for the Southern Region.

Although many records from Poland are reported in literature — see ZAJĄC *et al.* (2019) for a complete summary of the distribution of the species in the country — all records are from the southern part of the state. The record from Lipno county is not only the first one for the Kuyavian-Pomeranian region (voivodeship), but also it is the only one in the northern part of the country, suggesting a greater spread of the species in Poland than was known so far.

In mainland Greece the distribution of *S. destillatorium* is quite well known (see e.g. STRAND, 1915; KOHL, 1918; MAIDL, 1934; LECLERCQ, 1956; DE BEAUMONT, 1965; SCHMIDT & WESTRICH, 1983; GIACHINO *et al.*, 2000; DREWES, 2003; STANDFUSS & STANDFUSS, 2006; DOLLFUSS, 2016; ARENS, 2017), but in the numerous islands of the country the faunistic knowledge is scattered and quite scarce. So far the presence of this species was known in Corfu (DE BEAUMONT, 1965; DOLLFUSS, 2016), Crete (STRAND, 1915; DE BEAUMONT, 1961;

DOLLFUSS, 2016), Tinos (KOHL, 1918; DOLLFUSS, 2016), Paros (KOHL, 1918), Amorgos (MAIDL, 1934), Samos (MAIDL, 1934; DOLLFUSS, 2016), Thasos (ATANASSOV, 1965), Karpachos, Mykonos, Serifos (DOLLFUSS, 2016), and Rhodes (DE BEAUMONT, 1960; DOLLFUSS, 2016). The aforementioned records from Lefkada and Ithaka are the first ones for these islands.

Further research is needed to improve the faunistic knowledge of *S. destillatorium* in some countries where there is little information about its distribution, considering also the possible ecological competition with the more common alien species of *Sceliphron* – *S. caementarium* and *S. curvatum* – which are spreading rapidly in Europe (see PULAWSKI, 2021).

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