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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE  
OF SPIDER (ARACHNIDA: ARANEAE) FAUNA FROM  
THE TIMIȘ RIVER VALLEY (ROMANIA)**

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Abstract. In this study it is presented the results of the research on the spider (Araneae) fauna from the Timiș Plain. During 2004-2005 I collected 120 species of spiders belonging to 23 families. Some of them are mentioned for the first time in the south-western part of Romania. Such species are: *Cheiracanthium pelagicum* (C. L. Koch, 1837) (this species is mentioned for the third time in Romanian fauna) and *Cheiracanthium erraticum* (Walckenaer, 1802) (Miturgidae). Other rare and new species for Banat mentioned here are: *Urozelotes rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872) (Gnaphosidae) and *Nurscia albomaculata* (Lucas, 1846) (Titanocidae).

Résumé. Dans cette étude on présente les résultats de mes recherches sur les araignées de la plaine du Timiș. Pendant 2004-2005 j'ai collecté 120 espèces des araignées appartenant à 23 des familles. Certaines espèces sont mentionnés pour la première fois dans le sud-ouest de la Roumanie. Tels sont : *Cheiracanthium pelagicum* (C. L. Koch, 1837) (cette espèce est mentionnée pour la troisième fois dans le fauna de Roumanie) et *Cheiracanthium erraticum* (Walckenaer, 1802) (Miturgidae). Des autres rares et nouveaux espèces mentionnées ici pour Banat sont: *Urozelotes rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872) (Gnaphosidae) et *Nurscia albomaculata* (Lucas, 1846) (Titanocidae).

Key words. Araneae, fauna, Banat, Timiș River valley, Romania.

INTRODUCTION

Only scarce literature is available regarding the faunistic studies of spiders from the south-western part of Romania, and the few studies that were undertaken were focused on the south part of Banat where strong Mediterranean influences are present. First studies in the area were made in the late 19th century and at the begining of 20th century by foreign researchers: Frivaldsky (1876), Herman (1876-1879), Chyzer & Kulczyński (1891-1897). More recent studies were undertaken by Fuhn & Niculescu-Burlacu (1969, 1970), Fuhn & Oltean (1970), Gherasim (1970) and Orghidan, Dumitrescu & Georgescu (1979). The results of these researches were gathered in the volumes on the Romanian Fauna: Lycosidae (Fuhn & Niculescu-Burlacu, 1971), Clubionidae (Sterghiu, 1985) and Salticidae (Fuhn & Gherasim, 1995). Latest researches regarding spider fauna from the wet plains of Banat were made by Duma (2005).

My studies have taken place in the period 2004-2005. In this period of time I gathered material from the Plain of Timiș River and from the nearby hills: Hills of Lugoj and Hills of Pogăniș.

With this article I try to bring some contributions for completing the data on the spider fauna from Banat Region.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

The period of specimen gathering lasted from April 2004 to October 2005. The material was collected along the Timiș River in the vicinity of the following localities:

- Şag (Timiș County): Lat. 45°40'48.97''N, Long. 21°17'52.61''E;
- Lugoj (Timiș County): Lat. 45°40'09.02''N, Long. 21°57'54.28''E;
- Sacu (Caraș-Severin County): Lat. 45°35'00.17''N, Long. 22°08'14.40''E;
- Constantin Daicoviciu (Caraș-Severin County): Lat. 45°33'11.95''N, Long. 22°10'02.69''E;
- Copăcele (Caraș-Severin County): Lat. 45°28'36.25''N, Long. 22°03'56.04''E.

The geographical coordinates of the localities were obtained with the help of the program "Google Earth" and from the topographic maps ([www.GoogleEarth.com](http://www.GoogleEarth.com)). Because of the different ecological needs and various microhabitats that the species of araneae inhabit, the gathering methods were adapted accordingly, in order to collect as many species as possible from each habitat. Therefore I used entomological nets for the epigeal species of araneae. For those species that live on the ground (hypogean species) I used pitfall traps (Barber type) filled with 4% formol. The species of araneae that inhabit more inaccessible places, such as stony regions or trees, were gathered manually. The material was labelled and preserved in 70% alcohol. Besides the place and the date of capture, the type of habitat, gathering method, meteorological conditions at the time of collection, the inclination and the exposure of the slope were marked on the label.

For the species identification I used the papers signed by Fuhn & Niculescu-Burlacu (1971), Sterghiu (1985), Fuhn & Gherasim (1995). Also I used online papers found at: [www.araneae.unibe.ch](http://www.araneae.unibe.ch). Scientific names of the species as well as their taxonomical order are according to the catalogue of the world spider species published by Platnick (2006).

The species captured were partially donated to the "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History from Bucharest.

#### RESULTS

From my collection campaign I gathered a total of 3.226 specimens belonging to 120 species of spiders and to 23 families (Tab. 1). The majority of species belongs to the following families: Lycosidae (25 species representing: 20.83%), Salticidae (17 species representing: 14.16%), Araneidae (15 species representing: 12.5%) and Thomisidae (12 species: 10% of the total number of species). The number of species from each family can be seen in the figure 1.

Regarding the relative abundance of the gathered individuals I can say that the wolf spiders (Lycosidae) are the most abundant in our collection: 1148 specimens representing 35.58% of total number of collected individuals. In decreasing order there are: Araneidae (19.86%), Thomisidae (11.12%), Salticidae (7.22%), Theridiidae (6.04%), Pisauridae (5.82%), Linyphiidae (4.27%), Miturgidae (2.13%), Agelenidae (1.82%), Pholcidae (1.39%), Tetragnathidae (1.17%), Clubionidae (0.74%), Philodromidae (0.68%), Cybaeidae (0.52%), Gnaphosidae (0.49%), Sparassidae (0.46%), Oxyopidae (0.18%), Liocranidae (0.15%), Uloboridae (0.09%), Titanocidae (0.06%) and Eresidae, Atypidae and Scytodidae with 0.03%.

The relative abundance of the gathered individuals is presented in the figure 2.

In the localities from the plain of Timiș River, the number of species is approximately the same, with small variations. In the Sacu and Constantin Daicoviciu localities, where the plain meets the Hills of Lugoj, due to the different habitats I found an interesting mixture of higrophyte, mezophyte and xerophyte species.

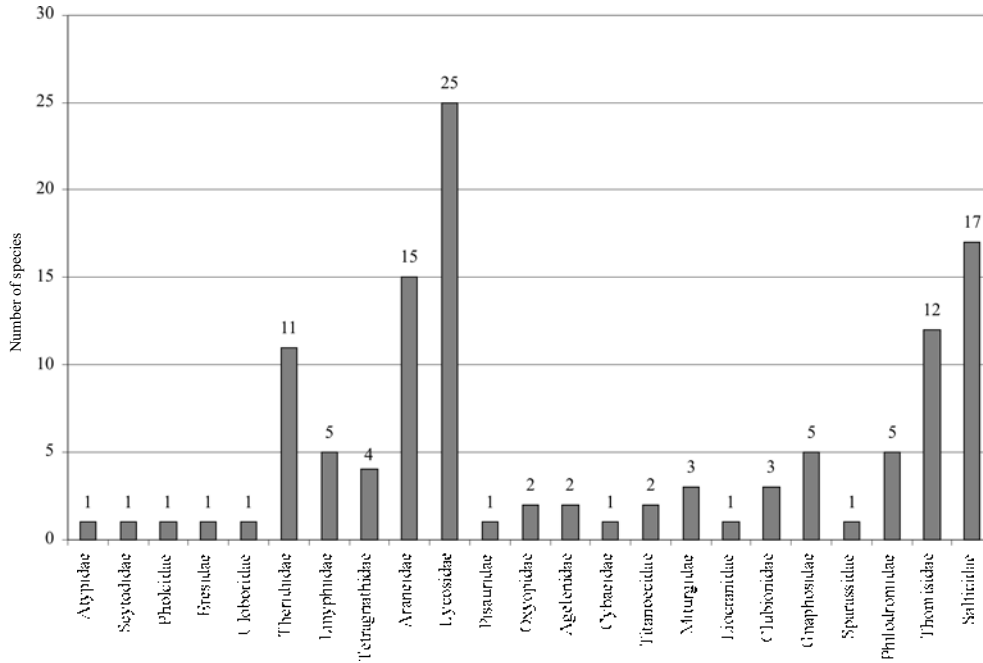


Fig. 1 – The specific diversity of the collected material.

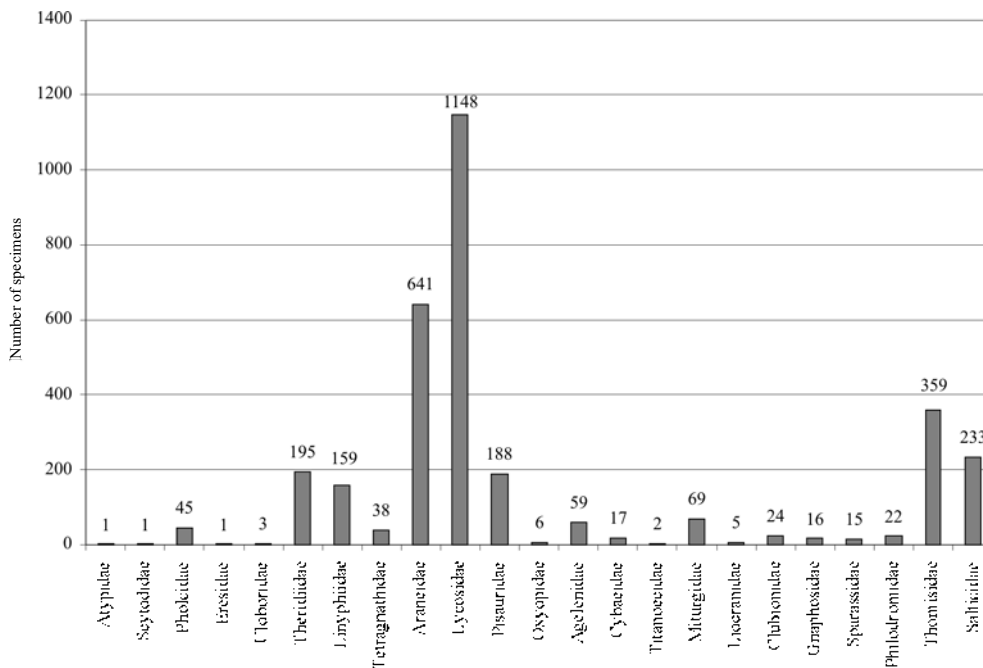


Fig. 2 – Relative abundance of the specimens collected in our gathering campaign.

Table 1

Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) from Banat Region: Timiș River Valey.

Family / Species	Collection places and number of individuals collected from each species				
	Șag	Lugoj	Sacu	Constantin Daicovicu	Copăcele
Family Atypidae					
1. <i>Atypus piceus</i> (Sulzer, 1776)	-	-	-	-	1
Family Scytodidae					
2. <i>Scytodes thoracica</i> (Latreille, 1802)	-	1	-	-	-
Family Pholcidae					
3. <i>Pholcus opilionoides</i> (Schrank, 1781)	3	35	-	7	-
Family Eresidae					
4. <i>Eresus cinnaberinus</i> (Olivier, 1789)	-	-	-	1	-
Family Uloboridae					
5. <i>Uloborus walckenaerius</i> (Latreille, 1806)	-	2	-	-	1
Family Theridiidae					
6. <i>Achaearanea lunata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	1	-	-	-	-
7. <i>Achaearanea tepidariorum</i> (C. L. Koch, 1841)	7	1	4	7	5
8. <i>Dipoena melanogaster</i> (C. L. Koch, 1837)	-	-	10	4	-
9. <i>Enoplognatha ovata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	-	24	11	1
10. <i>Episinus truncatus</i> (Latreille, 1809)	-	-	3	3	-
11. <i>Simitidion simile</i> (C. L. Koch, 1836)	7	-	1	1	-
12. <i>Steatoda phalerata</i> (Panzer, 1801)	18	7	-	1	2
13. <i>Steatoda triangulosa</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	8	21	3	4	-
14. <i>Theridion impressum</i> (L. Koch, 1881)	-	-	-	1	1
15. <i>Theridion pictum</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	-	1	-	12	1
16. <i>Theridion sisyphium</i> (Clerck, 1757)	4	6	7	-	8
Family Linyphiidae					
17. <i>Centromerus sylvaticus</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	-	2	3	11	-
18. <i>Frontinellina frutetorum</i> (C. L. Koch, 1834)	4	9	1	6	15
19. <i>Linyphia hortensis</i> (Sundevall, 1830)	17	14	32	2	19
20. <i>Linyphia triangularis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	8	2	7	-	5
21. <i>Porrhomma</i> sp.	-	-	-	1	-
Family Tetragnathidae					
22. <i>Metellina segmentata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	3	1	1	-
23. <i>Tetragnatha extensa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	5	5	1	5	2
24. <i>Tetragnatha montana</i> (Simon, 1874)	2	1	5	5	-
25. <i>Tetragnatha pinicola</i> (L. Koch, 1870)	-	-	1	1	-
Family Araneidae					
26. <i>Aculepeira ceropegia</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	21	7	7	-	2
27. <i>Agalenatea redii</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	9	1	13	1	1
28. <i>Araneus diadematus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	35	26	43	21	40
29. <i>Araneus marmoreus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	14	11	-	13	3

Table 1 (continued)

Family / Species	Collection places and number of individuals collected from each species				
	Şag	Lugoj	Sacu	Constantin Daicoviciu	Copăcele
30. <i>Araneus quadratus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	4	2	-	7	-
31. <i>Araneus sturmi</i> (Hahn, 1831)	1	4	-	10	-
32. <i>Araneus triguttatus</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	1	5	-	1	1
33. <i>Araniella cucurbitina</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	3	-	5	15
34. <i>Argiope bruennichi</i> (Scopoli, 1772)	38	48	22	7	68
35. <i>Cyclosa conica</i> (Pallas, 1772)	-	-	1	2	-
36. <i>Gibbaranea bituberculata</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	7	9	-	-	3
37. <i>Hypsosinga heri</i> (Hahn, 1831)	1	-	-	-	-
38. <i>Mangora acalypha</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	18	31	20	11	19
39. <i>Nuctenea umbratica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	-	2	6	-
40. <i>Singa hamata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	1	3	-	-	-
Family Lycosidae					
41. <i>Alopecosa cuneata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	3	7	13	33	-
42. <i>Alopecosa cursor</i> (Hahn, 1831)	-	-	5	2	-
43. <i>Alopecosa pinetorum</i> (Thorell, 1856)	-	-	-	3	-
44. <i>Alopecosa trabalis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	3	25	-	16
45. <i>Arctosa leopardus</i> (Sundevall, 1833)	-	2	1	-	-
46. <i>Aulonia albimana</i> (Walckenaer, 1805)	-	-	-	1	-
47. <i>Geolycosa vultuosa</i> (C. L. Koch, 1838)	-	-	-	5	9
48. <i>Hogna radiata</i> (Latreille, 1817)	16	45	12	32	13
49. <i>Lycosa singoriensis</i> (Laxmann, 1770)	-	-	-	7	4
50. <i>Pardosa agricola</i> (Thorell, 1856)	9	17	6	-	-
51. <i>Pardosa alacris</i> (C. L. Koch, 1833)	15	56	38	45	9
52. <i>Pardosa amentata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	3	-	27	32	10
53. <i>Pardosa hortensis</i> (Thorell, 1872)	17	13	5	-	-
54. <i>Pardosa lugubris</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	37	45	62	55	27
55. <i>Pardosa monticola</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	-	-	13	-
56. <i>Pardosa palustris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)	-	-	-	24	-
57. <i>Pardosa prativaga</i> (L. Koch, 1870)	5	23	18	-	27
58. <i>Pardosa riparia</i> (C. L. Koch, 1833)	-	-	-	37	-
59. <i>Pirata hygrophilus</i> (Thorell, 1872)	11	3	17	1	-
60. <i>Pirata knorri</i> (Scopoli, 1763)	8	10	2	5	15
61. <i>Pirata latitans</i> (Blackwall, 1841)	1	25	-	-	3
62. <i>Pirata piraticus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	3	1	-	4	-
63. <i>Trochosa spinipalpis</i> (F. O. P. -Cambridge, 1895)	7	-	-	-	-
64. <i>Trochosa terricola</i> (Thorell, 1856)	1	3	-	7	-
65. <i>Xerolycosa miniata</i> (C. L. Koch, 1834)	-	-	-	11	1
Family Pisauridae					
66. <i>Pisaura mirabilis</i> (Clerck, 1757)	53	34	28	37	36
Family Oxyopidae					
67. <i>Oxyopes lineatus</i> (Latreille, 1806)	-	-	-	4	-
68. <i>Oxyopes ramosus</i> (Martini & Goeze, 1778)	2	-	-	-	-
Family Agelenidae					
69. <i>Agelena labyrinthica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	13	3	-	9	8
70. <i>Tegenaria campestris</i> (C. L. Koch, 1834)	3	9	5	4	5

Table 1 (continued)

Family / Species	Collection places and number of individuals collected from each species				
	Şag	Lugoj	Sacu	Constantin Daicoviciu	Copăcele
Family Cybaeidae					
71. <i>Argyroneta aquatica</i> (Clerck, 1757)	14	3	-	-	-
Family Titanoecidae					
72. <i>Nurscia albomaculata</i> (Lucas, 1846)	-	-	-	1	-
73. <i>Titanoeca quadriguttata</i> (Hahn, 1833)	-	-	-	1	-
Family Miturgidae					
74. <i>Cheiracanthium erraticum</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	-	-	1	1	1
75. <i>Cheiracanthium pelagicum</i> (C. L. Koch, 1837)	-	-	-	1	-
76. <i>Cheiracanthium punctorium</i> (Villers, 1789)	28	14	1	8	14
Family Liocranidae					
77. <i>Agroeca brunnea</i> (Blackwall, 1833)	-	-	2	3	-
Family Clubionidae					
78. <i>Clubiona frutetorum</i> (L. Koch, 1867)	-	-	3	1	-
79. <i>Clubiona lutescens</i> (Westring, 1851)	1	-	1	1	2
80. <i>Clubiona neglecta</i> (O. P. -Cambridge, 1862)	6	6	1	-	2
Family Gnaphosidae					
81. <i>Aphantaulax trifasciata</i> (O. P. -Cambridge, 1872)	-	-	7	-	-
82. <i>Drassylus praeficus</i> (L. Koch, 1866)	-	-	2	1	-
83. <i>Gnaphosa lucifuga</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	-	-	-	3	-
84. <i>Micaria formicaria</i> (Sundevall, 1831)	1	-	-	-	-
85. <i>Urozelotes rusticus</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	-	-	-	2	-
Family Sparassidae					
86. <i>Micrommata virescens</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	-	10	4	1
Family Philodromidae					
87. <i>Philodromus collinus</i> (C. L. Koch, 1835)	-	-	1	3	-
88. <i>Thanatus arenarius</i> (L. Koch, 1872)	-	-	3	6	-
89. <i>Thanatus atratus</i> (Simon, 1875)	-	-	-	1	-
90. <i>Thanatus formicinus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	-	-	1	-
91. <i>Thanatus vulgaris</i> (Simon, 1870)	-	-	4	3	-
Family Thomisidae					
92. <i>Ebrechtella tricuspidata</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	-	2	1	10	6
93. <i>Misumena vatia</i> (Clerck, 1757)	6	14	8	6	14
94. <i>Ozyptila atomaria</i> (Panzer, 1801)	-	1	-	4	2
95. <i>Ozyptila praticola</i> (C. L. Koch, 1837)	1	-	-	1	-
96. <i>Pistius truncatus</i> (Pallas, 1772)	1	5	1	1	9
97. <i>Synema globosum</i> (Fabricius, 1775)	2	29	4	5	22
98. <i>Thomisus onustus</i> (Walckenaer, 1805)	15	16	9	24	26
99. <i>Xysticus acerbus</i> (Thorell, 1872)	-	-	2	3	6
100. <i>Xysticus bifasciatus</i> (C. L. Koch, 1837)	-	-	-	13	12
101. <i>Xysticus cristatus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	7	8	8	17
102. <i>Xysticus kochi</i> (Thorell, 1872)	1	4	21	1	5
103. <i>Xysticus lanio</i> (C. L. Koch, 1835)	5	-	-	1	-

Table 1 (continued)

Family / Species	Collection places and number of individuals collected from each species				
	Șag	Lugoj	Sacu	Constantin Daicoviciu	Copăcele
Family Salticidae					
104. <i>Evarcha arcuata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	1	8	7	4	2
105. <i>Evarcha falcata</i> (Clerck, 1757)	5	6	-	1	2
106. <i>Evarcha laetabunda</i> (C. L. Koch, 1846)	8	5	7	4	-
107. <i>Heliophanus auratus</i> (C. L. Koch, 1835)	13	6	2	6	2
108. <i>Heliophanus cupreus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	3	1	4	14	8
109. <i>Heliophanus flavipes</i> (Hahn, 1832)	5	14	8	8	7
110. <i>Heliophanus kochii</i> (Simon, 1868)	-	-	-	2	-
111. <i>Leptorchestes berolinensis</i> (C. L. Koch, 1846)	-	22	-	2	3
112. <i>Macaroeris nidicolens</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	-	1	-	-	-
113. <i>Marpissa nivoyi</i> (Lucas, 1846)	-	-	-	-	1
114. <i>Pellenes nigrociliatus</i> (Simon, 1875)	-	3	-	-	-
115. <i>Philaeus chrysops</i> (Poda, 1761)	-	-	-	2	-
116. <i>Phlegra fasciata</i> (Hahn, 1826)	-	-	-	2	-
117. <i>Pseudeuophrys obsoleta</i> (Simon, 1868)	-	-	1	-	-
118. <i>Pseudeuophrys vafra</i> (Blackwall, 1867)	1	1	-	-	-
119. <i>Pseudicius encarpatus</i> (Walckenaer, 1802)	-	5	1	2	3
120. <i>Salticus scenicus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	-	11	2	7	-

## DISCUSSIONS

From all species mentioned above (Tab. 1) I shall discuss only the most important findings.

## Family Lycosidae

I found *Pardosa palustris* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Constantin Daicoviciu (Caraș-Severin County) at an altitude of 200 m in a *Fagus sylvatica* forest. In Romanian literature this species is cited from altitudes above 400 m (Fuhn & Niculescu-Burlacu, 1971). Also *Pardosa riparia* (C. L. Koch, 1833) and *Aulonia albimana* (Walckenaer, 1805) were found at the same altitude (200 m, in the same *Fagus sylvatica* forest) although in literature (Fuhn & Niculescu-Burlacu, 1971) they were mentioned at higher places (above 700 m). *Alopecosa trabalis* (Clerck, 1757) and *Pirata latitans* (Blackwall, 1841) are mentioned for the first time in the Banat region.

## Family Miturgidae

On 6th of June 2004, I collected *Cheiracanthium pelasgicum* (C. L. Koch, 1837) at Constantin Daicoviciu (Caraș-Severin County). The specimen was

captured with the entomological net in a xerophile meadow. This species was reported before in only two places in Romania: surroundings of Iași (Iași County) and from Hagieni (Constanța County). So, this new finding completes the data regarding distribution of this rare species in Romania.

*Cheiracanthium erraticum* (Walckenaer, 1802) is also mentioned for the first time in the south-western part of Romania.

#### Family Salticidae

*Pseudeuophris vafra* (Blackwall, 1867) was reported just in the southern regions of Romania which have an average medium temperature over 11°C: Muntenia: Comana forest, Bucharest, Jupalnic; South of Banat: Ada Kaleh isle, Orșova (Fuhn & Gherasim, 1995). I collected manually adult males of this species in Șag and Lugoj (Timiș County) from the building walls, in November 2005.

Other new species for Banat are: *Thanatus atratus* Simon, 1875 (Philodromidae), *Urozelotes rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872) (Gnaphosidae), *Nurscia albomaculata* (Lucas, 1846) (Titanocidae) all found at Constantin Daicoviciu collecting site.

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#### CONTRIBUȚII LA CUNOAȘTEREA FAUNEI DE ARANEE (ARACHNIDA: ARANEA) DE PE VALEA RÂULUI TIMIȘ (ROMÂNIA)

#### REZUMAT

Rezultatele acestui studiu vin să completeze lipsa de informații privind fauna de aranee din partea de sud-vest a României. Aceasta deoarece studiile efectuate până în prezent asupra araneelor din Banat sunt puține, incomplete și neactualizate. Dovada acestui fapt o constituie numeroasele specii menționate în lucrarea de față pentru prima dată în această zonă: *Thanatus atratus* (Simon, 1875), *Nurscia albomaculata* (Lucas, 1846), *Urozelotes rusticus* (L. Koch, 1872), *Cheiracanthium erraticum* (Walckenaer, 1802), *Cheiracanthium pelagicum* (C. L. Koch, 1837), *Alopecosa trabalis* (Clerck, 1757) și *Pirata latitans* (Blackwall, 1841). În total sunt colectate 3226 de exemplare de aranee ce aparțin la 120 de specii din cadrul a 23 de familii. În cazul unora dintre ele se aduc noi informații privind ecologia acestora.

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