

NEW DATA ON THE PRESENCE OF SOME ASILIDAE (DIPTERA) IN ROMANIA

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Abstract. We present collecting data and places for 29 Asilidae species from Romania.

Résumé. On présente les données et les lieux de capture pour 29 espèces d'Asilidae de Roumanie.

Key words: Asilidae, Romania, faunistics.

Large surfaces of the Romanian territory were studied from the Asilidae fauna point of view. The fascicle of fauna dedicated to this family, published in 1971, offers complete information on the records from the Romanian territory, from which we mention the most important. Beginning with 1853, with Gustav Mayr's paper and till 1959, most of the records refer to Transylvania. In 1873, Kowarz published Asilidae collected in the localities near the Danube: Plavișevița, Orșova, Cazane, Turmu-Severin, Mehadia and Valea Cernei. Fleck (1904) and Șuster (1944) cited asilids from other areas of Romania. Mircea Ionescu and Medeea Weinberg began the study of this family in 1959 till 1970 (Weinberg, Istrate), finding again the largest part of the 77 species mentioned from Romania before, to which they added other 45 species. Thus, in the fascicle of the Romanian fauna from 1971, 122 asilid species are presented (Ionescu, Weinberg, 1971). Weinberg, by her papers from 1975, 1982 and 1995 increased this number to 127, citing other 5 species.

For several decades, the inventorying of fauna became a worldwide problem in order to establish the state of the species populations. Every day this problem becomes more and more important and urgent because of man's violent intervention on nature.

It has to be praised the late lepidopterologist Aurelian Popescu-Gorj's initiative for making an entomological monograph on different areas of Dobrogea, including the Danube Delta, which underlined numerous scientific novelties, appreciated by the world specialists.

Besides monograph and faunal lists the patrimony of the museum collections gives important data for the knowledge on species distribution. Unfortunately, the low number of the specimens caught at random is insufficient in establishing both the biodiversity and the phenology and their distribution in the country.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

Our paper was made starting from the idea that any material, collected, identified and studied in comparison with the data from literature, offers an updated situation of the presence of this predator species in nature. In the same time, these data complete their distribution in Romania, with a special value in drawing up the distribution maps in the Palaearctic region.

For this reason, during the field trips between 1990–2003, Angela Petrescu collected 268 asilids, this thing generating the idea of this paper. All material was collected by the junior author and identified by the senior one. After the identification it resulted 29 species of 16 genera, grouped in 5 subfamilies.

The studied areas are: Poiana (Southern Romania) (1); Dumbrăveni forest, Negureni forest, Canaraua Fetii (Southern Dobrogea) (2); Agigea and Tuzla (3) (Fig. 2); Cape Dolojman, Popina Island – Razelm lake, Enisala, Histria lake – Nuntași, Babadag forest – 6 Martie (Caramanchioi), Babadag forest – Slava Cercheză (4); the Danube Delta (sand bank Gorgova, Maliuc, Ceatal – Sfântu Gheorghe branch, Caraorman forest) (5); Valea Doftanei (6); Piatra Craiului (Plaiului Mare Gorges, Cheii Gorges – Rudărița – Podul Dâmboviței) (7); Cloșani (Izvorele, Valea Lupșei) (8); Vâlcan Mountains, Obârșia Lotrului (9); Maramureș (Strâmtura, Săcătura–Călinești forest range) (10) (Fig. 2); Mateiaș – Dragoslavele (11). On the map (Fig. 1) collecting localities are marked by a number.

Winthin the paper, the material is phyletically presented, in subfamilies, after Lehr (1988), and the species, alphabetically, in genera. For each species, the specimens are ordered after collecting years, giving their number, sex, place and data. When captured, also Gabriel Chișamera participated and the respective species

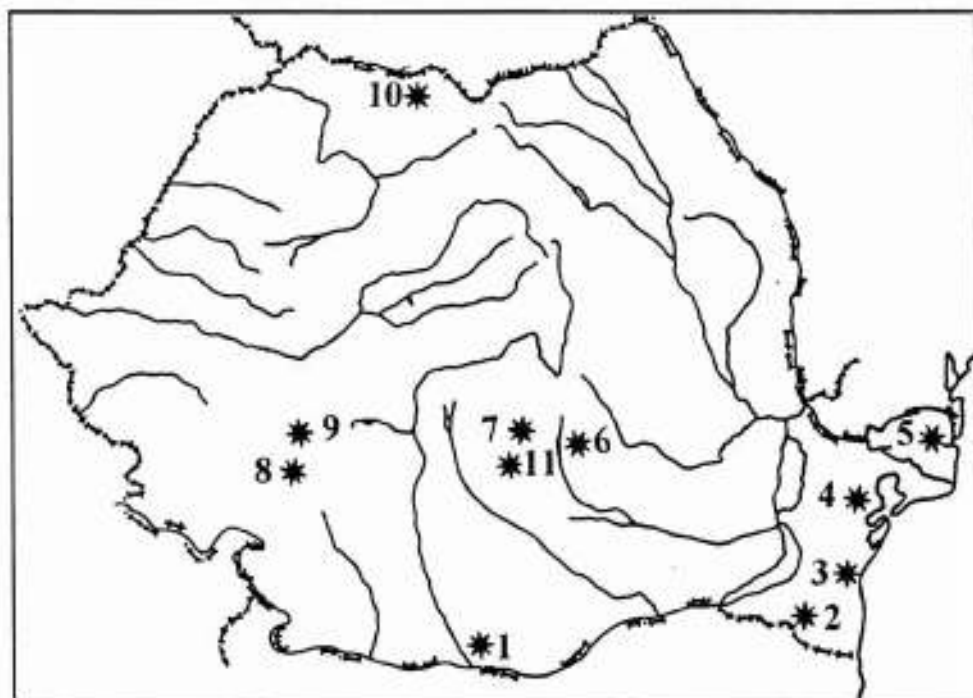


Fig. 1 – The localities from where the material was collected are marked by a number: 1 – Poiana; 2 – Dumbrăveni forest, Negureni forest, Canaraua Fetii; 3 – Agigea and Tuzla; 4 – Dolojman Cape, Popina Island – Razelm lake, Enisala, Histria lake – Nuntași, Babadag forest – 6 Martie (Caramanchioi), Babadag–Slava Cercheză forest; 5 – The Danube Delta (sand bank Gorgova, Maliuc, Ceatal – Sfântu Gheorghe Branch, Caraorman forest); 6 – Valea Doftanei; 7 – Piatra Craiului (Plaiului Mare Gorges, Cheii Gorges – Rudărița–Podul Dâmboviței); 8 – Cloșani (Izvorele, Valea Lupșei); 9 – Vâlcan Mountains (Obârșia Lotrului); 10 – Maramureș (Strâmtura, Săcătura–Călinești forest range); 11 – Mateiaș (Dragoslavele).



Fig. 2 – Maramureș, Strâmtura (up); Tuzla, Black Sea Coast (down) (photo Iorgu Petrescu).

are marked with the name initials (G. C.), according to the collecting data. In this paper we present the previous records from Romania, and each species is followed by a special remark which results from the data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The studied material consists of 268 specimens of 29 species, 16 genera, grouped in 5 subfamilies, and collected from areas where asilid dipterans were not studied: Cloșani (8), Vâlcan Mountains (9), Valca Doftanei (6), Pietra Craiului (7), Maramureș (10), Popina Island (4), Poiana (1), the Danube Delta (5), Dumbrăveni and Negureni forests (2), Canaraua Fetii (Southern Dobrogea) (2), researchings were not made for more than 20 years. This study increases and completes the data on the Romanian range of the 29 studied asilid species.

Abbreviations: CT – Constanța; MM – Maramureș; GJ – Gorj; TR – Teleorman; PH – Prahova; TL – Tulcea; DB – Dâmbovița; AG – Argeș.

Species list

Subfamily Laphriinae

Choerades fimbriata (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♂, Poiana (TR), 1.VI.1990; 1 ♂, Bucharest – "Grigore Antipa" National Museum of Natural History, 26.VIII.2001.

Remarks. From phenological point of view it is known that in Romania it is present in July–August. Now it is caught in June and August.

Choerades fulva (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♀ Strâmtura (MM), 3.VII.1995.

Remarks. It is present in sandy areas: Periprava (Weinberg, 1968), Desa (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1996). Also, it was found in Retezat (Weinberg, 1980) at 1,150 m altitude. Now it is found in Maramureș for the second time (Ionescu, Weinberg, 1963). All records bases on 2 specimens at the most; it is a rare species.

Laphria ephippium (Fabricius, 1781)

Material: 1 ♀, Valea Doftanei (PH), 24.VI.1994; 1 ♀, Izvorele, Cloșani (GJ), 20.VI.1992.

Remarks. Species present all over the country. Both localities enlarge the known range. It has to be underlined that most of the records are made at over 800 m altitude, from whole Carpathian chain.

Subfamily Stenopogoninae

Dioctria cothurnatha (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 9 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, Pietra Craiului Mountains (Plaiului Mare Gorges) (AG), 26.VI.1993.

Remarks. First mention in Pietra Craiului. It is present in mountain forests, beginning with the second half of May till the half of September.

Dioctria liturata (Loew, 1873)

Material: 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Vâlcan Mountains (Obârșia Lotrului) (GJ), 22.VI.1992, 1,400 m altitude; 3 ♂♂, Izvoarele, Cloșani (GJ), 20.VI.1992; 2 ♀♀, Mateiaș (Dragoslavele) (AG), 28.VI.1993, 800 m altitude; 1 ♂, Valea Doftanei (PH), 24.VI.1994.

Remarks. Mentioned from Băneasa (CT) in Southern Dobrogea (Weinberg, 1975), now, being collected from the Southern Carpathians (Vâlcan Mountains, Cloșani, Valea Doftanei) and Sub-Carpathians (Mateiaș), at altitudes of 800–1,400 m. This demonstrates the less numerous data on the the presence of some species, as this one, which is mentioned for the second time now; in the same time, the data on the vertical distribution are completed on this occasion.

Dioctria longicornis (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Dumbrăveni forest (CT), 21.V.1994.

Remarks. It is present only in Southern Romania. Thalhammer (1918) cites it from Baziaș and Mehadia. It is one of the small sized dipterans, with long antennae, almost as long as the thorax length (Fig. 3).

Molobratia egregia (Loew, 1869)

Material: 1 ♀, Dumbrăveni forest (CT), 21.V.1994; 1 ♀, Dumbrăveni forest, Furnica (CT), 24.VI.1995.

Remarks. As yet, it has been mentioned from the Danube Delta, from Periprava, and now, from Southern Dobrogea.

Molobratia teutonius (Linnaeus, 1767)

Material: 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Cloșani (GJ), 16.VI.1992; 2 ♂♂, Cloșani, Valea Izvoarelor (GJ), 19.VI.1992.

Remarks. It is present in the Southern half of Romania. Found in Cloșani for the first time.

Stenopogon sabaudus (Fabricius, 1794)

Material: 3 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, Tuzla (CT), 11.VII.1991; 2 ♀♀, Tuzla (CT), 1.VIII.1992; 1 ♀, Histria (CT), 16.VIII.1992; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Popina Island, Razelm Lake (TL), 12.VIII.1992; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Tuzla (CT), 21.VII.2003; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Tuzla (CT), 21.VII.2003, leg. A. P. and G. C.

Remarks. It prefers the sandy areas, widely distributed in Dobrogea; cited from South-West Romania, from Bucovăț (DJ) (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1990–1993); collected from Popina Island for the first time.

Stichopogon scaliger (Loew, 1847)

Material: 3 ♀♀, Cape Dolojman (Razelm) (TL), 15.VII.1992; 1 ♀, Sand bank Gorgova, Maliuc, the Danube Delta (TL), 21.VIII.1992; 1 ♀, Agigea, marine sandy bank reserve, 2–5.VII.1993.

Remarks. Mentioned from the Danube Delta (Weinberg, 1968) and from Dolj (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1990–1993, 1996); it is present in sandy areas.

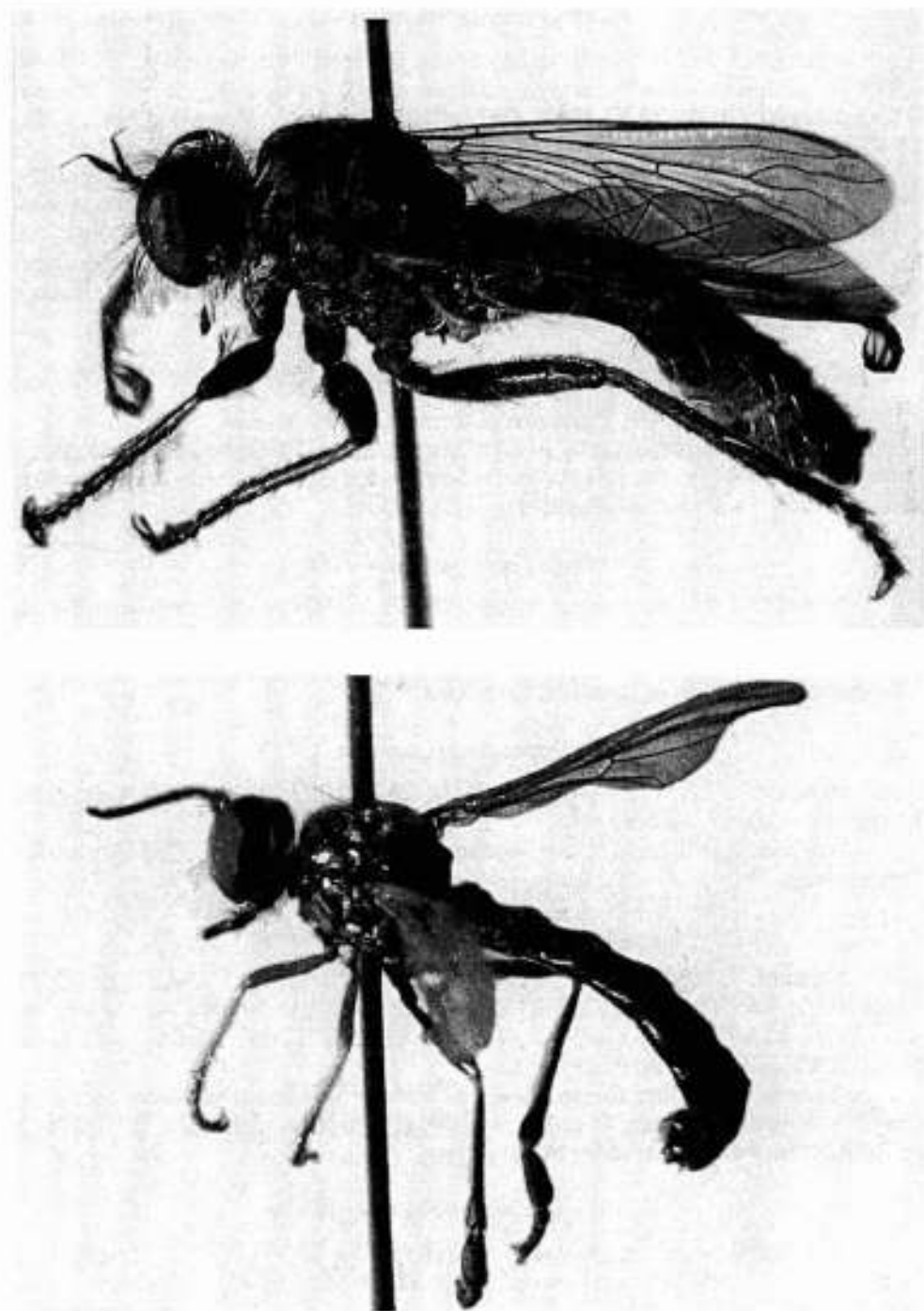


Fig. 3 – *Dysmachus antipal*, lateral view (up); *Dioctria longicornis* (down) (photo Gabriel Chișamera).

Remarks. A widely distributed species, from the Black Sea shore till in the Retezat Massif, at 800–850 m altitude (Weinberg, 1980).

Dysmachus picipes (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Valea Izvoarelor, Cloșani (GJ), 20.VI.1992; 1 ♂, Valea Doftanei (PH), 24.VI.1994.

Remarks. Largely distributed species, in all Romania, mentioned from Retezat, at 850 m altitude (Weinberg, 1980).

Epitriptus arthriticus (Zeller, 1840)

Material: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Gorges Cheii (Rudărița – Podul Dâmboviței) (DB), 27.VI.1993; 2 ♂♂, Valea Doftanei (PH), 24.VI.1994; 6 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ Săcătura forest range, Călinești (MM), 8.VII.1995.

Remarks. Specimens from Gura Bârăzăului from Maramureș, from Câmpulung Moldovenesc and Putna from Moldova were captured, and now, it is mentioned from Piatra Craiului for the first time (Cheii Gorges – Podul Dâmboviței).

Epitriptus cingulatus (Fabricius, 1781)

Material: 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Poiana (TR), 5.VIII.1991; 1 ♀, Enisala (TL), 13.VIII.1992; 1 ♂, Babadag forest, 6 Martie (Caramanchioi), 14.VIII.1992; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Nuntași lake-Histria (CT), 16.VIII.1992; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Ceatal – Sfântu Gheorghe, the Danube Delta (TL), 19.VIII.1992; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Gorgova sand bank (Maliuc – the Danube Delta) (TL), 21.VIII.1992; 12 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀, Caraorman forest, the Danube Delta (TL) 23–24.VIII.1992; 4 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Canaraua Fetii – Băneasa (CT), 20.V.1994.

Remarks. With a single exception, Caraorman, all the other data complete the wide distribution of this species in Romania.

Epitriptus cowini Hobby, 1946

Material: 1 ♂, Poiana (TR), 1–2.VI.1990.

Remarks. It is the second recording from Romania (Weinberg, 1995).

Epitriptus inconstans (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♂, Tuzla (CT), 17.VI.1991; 1 ♀, Tuzla (CT), 2.VIII.1992; 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Popina Island – Razelm lake (TL), 12.VIII.1992; 1 ♀, Dolojman, 15.VIII.1992 (TL); 1 ♀, Caraorman forest (TL), 23–24.VIII.1992.

Remarks. It is the first asilid material from Popina Island; it is considered a species of Dobrogea, present in the Danube Delta (Weinberg, 1975)

Epitriptus setosulus (Zeller, 1840)

Material: 4 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, Popina Island – Razelm lake (TL), 12.VIII.1992.

Remarks. Species known from hilly areas, at altitudes of 600–800 m; it was mentioned from Dobrogea (Weinberg, 1975) and the outskirts of Sibiu (Ionescu, Weinberg, 1963).

Subfamily Dasygogoninae

Dasygogon octonotatus (Loew, 1869)

Material: 3 ♂♂, Tuzla (CT), 21.VII.2003.

Remarks. Large sized asilid, present in Southern Romania, in sandy areas.

Subfamily Leptogastridae

Leptogaster cylindrica (De Geer, 1776)

Material: 3 ♂♂, Poiana (TR), 1–2.VI.1990; 2 ♂♂, Săcătura forest range, Călinești (MM) 800 m altitude, 8.VII.1995; 1 ♀, Agigea, marine sandy bank reserve, 16.VII.2003; 7 ♀♀, Agigea, marine sandy bank reserve, 17.VII.2003.

Remarks. Species frequent in Southern Romania, being mentioned from Periprava from the Danube Delta (Weinberg, 1968). These collecting places are new, showing that it can reach 800 m altitude and that it is present from the marine sand banks till the afforested areas from Northern Romania.

Leptogaster pubicornis Loew, 1847

Material: 5 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Agigea, marine sandy bank reserve, 2–5.VII.1993.

Remarks. In 1976 it was mentioned from Northern Dobrogea (Weinberg, 1976) and found again in Oltenia (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1996). This is the third mention from Romania, which also underline the preference of this species for the sandy areas.

Subfamily Asilinae

Anthiphrisson trifarius (Loew, 1849)

Material: 1 ♀, Poiana (TR), 1–2.VI.1990; 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Popina Island (TL), 12.VII.1992; 1 ♂, Dolojman (TL), 15.VII.1992, leg. A.P.; 1 ♀, Negureni (Băneasa) (CT), 18.V.1993; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Canaraua Fetii (Băneasa) (CT), 20.V.1994; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Dumbrăveni forest, Furnica (CT), 23.VI.1995; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Dumbrăveni forest, Furnica (CT), 25.VI.1995.

Remarks. Recently mentioned from Oltenia, from Negoii and Desa, Southern Dolj, and found again in Poiana, Popina Island and the forests from Southern Dobrogea. It is present in the sandy areas.

Dysmachus antipai Weinberg, 1968

Material: 1 ♀, Tuzla (CT), 17.VI.1992; 1 ♀, Lupșei valley, Cioșani (GJ), 19.VI.1992; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Dumbrăveni forest (CT), 2–5.VII.1993; 3 ♂♂, Dumbrăveni forest (CT), 21.V.1994; 1 ♀, Agigea, marine sandy bank reserve (CT), 20.VII.2003 (Fig. 3).

Remarks. Endemic species, widely distributed in the Southern half of Romania.

Dysmachus fuscipennis Meigen, 1820

Material: 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Săcătură forest range (Călinești) (MM), 8–10.VI.1995, 800 m altitude.

Erax crassicauda (Loew, 1862)

Material: 1 ♂, Negureni forest (CT), 22.V.1993.

Remarks. Known only from Dobrogea (Weinberg, 1975).

Machimus annulipes (Brulle, 1834)

Material: 2 ♂♂, Poiana (TR), 2.VI.1994; 3 ♂♂, Babadag forest, 6 Martie (Caramanchioi) (TL), 14.VIII.1992; 5 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀, Dumbrăveni forest, Furnica, 23–25.VI.1995; 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, Canaraua Fetii – Băneasa (CT), 26.VI.1995; 1 ♀, Agigea (CT), 2–5.VII.1995.

Remarks. Species widely distributed in the areas cultivated with cereals; it is a useful predator, feeding on *Anisoplia* sp. (pest coleopterans).

Machimus gonatistes (Zeller, 1840)

Material: 1 ♂, Agigea (CT), 2–5.VII.1993; 5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, Agigea (CT), 17–18.VII.2003.

Remarks. It has a bilateral Southern distribution – Western (Ieșelnița, Poiana Mare) (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1990–1993) and Eastern (the Danube Delta) (Weinberg, 1975).

Machimus rusticus (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 1 ♀, Cheii Gorges (Rudărița, Podul Dâmboviței) (DB), 27.VI.1993; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, Poiana (TR), 2.VI.1994; 1 ♀, Valea Doftanei (PH), 24.VI.1994; 1 ♂, Săcătură forest range, Călinești (MM), 800 m altitude, 8.VII.1995.

Remarks. It is present from the sea shore till the mountains, often being occurred in sandy areas (Weinberg, Chimișliu, 1990–1993).

Neomochtherus schineri Egger, 1855

Material: 1 ♀, Babadag forest, Slava Cercheză (TL), 11.VIII.1992.

Remarks. Cited only from Babadag (Weinberg, 1969) and now found for the second time.

Philonicus albiceps (Meigen, 1820)

Material: 11 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, Poiana (TR), 2.VI.1990; 1 ♂, Poiana (TR), 13.VIII.1991; 3 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, Caraorman sand bank (TL), 23–24.VIII.1992.

Remarks. Psammophile species, occurred in forests both in the field and in hilly areas; common along the Danube and in the Danube Delta.

Tolmerus atricapillus Fall., 1814

Material: 1 ♂, Babadag forest, 6 Martie (Caramanchioi) (TL), 14.VIII.1992; 2 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, Babadag forest, Slava Cercheză, 18.VIII.1992; 1 ♀, Negureni (CT), 21.VII.1993.

Remarks. Present in Romania, from the Black Sea shore till in the Carpathian Mountains. In Retezat (Weinberg, 1980) it was collected at 1,500 m altitude.

In conclusion, the paper increases and completes the data on the Romanian range of these 29 studied asilid species. It is necessary to mention that only a number

of 9 species exceed 10 specimens, from them, the most frequent being *Epitriptus cingulatus*, represented by 42 specimens. To this species, all the other records are new and complete its distribution in Romania, with a single exception, Caraorman.

For the species mentioned from Piatra Craiului and from Vâlcan Mountains their vertical distribution changes.

The following species are at the second mention now: *Dioctria liturata*, *Molobratia egregia*, *Antiphriusson trifarius*, *Epitriptus cowini*, *Erax crassicauda*, *Neomochtherus schineri*. From its mentioning from Babadag, 30 years ago (Weinberg, 1969) *Neomochtherus schineri* is found again now, also in Babadag forest, at Slava Cercheză. After all collectings made in Romania, this is the single place in Romania where this species is preserved.

These mentions underline the necessity of continuing this such reseaching in order to make a complete list of the presence of asilids in Romania.

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DATE NOI PRIVIND PREZENȚA UNOR ASILIDAE (DIPTERA) ÎN ROMÂNIA

REZUMAT

Materialul studiat cuprinde 268 de exemplare din 29 de specii, 16 genuri, grupate în 5 subfamilii, și a fost colectat între anii 1990–2003 din zone în care dipterele asilidae nu au fost cercetate: Cloșani (8), Munții Vâlcan (9), Valea Doftanei (6), Munții Piatra Craiului (7), Maramureș (10), Insula Popina (4) și Poiana (1); iar din Delta Dunării (5), pădurile Dumbrăveni și Negureni, Canaraua Fetiș (sudul Dobrogei) (2), nu au mai fost efectuate cercetări de mai bine de 20 de ani. În concluzie, lucrarea sporește și completează datele despre arealul din România al acestor 29 de specii de asilide cercetate. Se impune menționarea că speciile: *Dioctria liturata*, *Molobratia egregia*, *Antiphriusson trifarius*, *Epitriptus cowini*, *Erax crassicauda*, *Neomochtherus schineri* sunt la a doua semnalare în România.

Datele obținute vor contribui la realizarea mai exactă a hărților de distribuție a speciilor de Asilidae din regiunea paleartică.

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