

## GENUS *THERIOPECTES* ZELLER, 1842 (DIPTERA, TABANIDAE) IN ROMANIA, WITH THE MENTION OF *T. TUNICATUS* (SZILÁDY, 1927)

CORNELIU PÂRVU

On présente des données sur 3 espèces rares du genre *Theriopectes* Zeller: *T. gigas* (Herbst), *T. tricolor* Zeller et *T. tunicatus* (Szilády), la dernière espèce étant mentionnée pour la première fois dans la faune de Roumanie.

La distribution des ces espèces a été illustrée sur les cartes, tant en Roumanie que dans leur aire paléarctique.

Genus *Theriopectes* Zeller, 1842 comprises large sized species – over 20 mm length – similar to bumble bees because of their thorax covered with a yellow-reddish or black, thick, long pilosity.

Females sting horses and bovinitics, sucking their blood, as other species of large sizes do, belonging to genus *Tabanus*. But, they do not attack man.

Originating from the eastern Mediterranean, this genus includes 7 palaeartic species, 3 of them being found in Europe: 2 of them are known in Romania, having been mentioned by Dinulescu (1958): *T. gigas* (Herbst) and *T. tricolor* Zeller; the third one, *T. tunicatus* (Szilády) is now mentioned for the first time in the Romania's fauna.

The material which have lain at the bottom of this paper is present in the scientific collection of Romanian dipterans from the "Grigore Antipa" Natural History Museum of Bucharest. In order to draw up the distribution maps of the 3 Romanian species (Fig. 2), there have been used all data from the specialized literature. To them, there were added the data resulted from the material had at my disposal. In order to illustrate the placing of Romania at the northern, north-western or north-eastern limits of each species areal, all mentions were drawn and brought up-to-date.

*Theriopectes gigas* (Herbst, 1787)

*Data from literature.* The species is known in Romania from a single locality: Bîrnova hill, around Iași, (situated at 416 m altitude), by Dinulescu's mention (op. cit).

*Material:* 1 ♀, of 23 mm length, collected from Comana (Giurgiu county), at 90 m altitude, on 30.V.1982 (leg. et det. C. Pârvu), 1 ♀ of 22 mm length, collected from Băile Herculane (Caraș-Severin county), at 200 m altitude, on 12.VIII.1984

(leg. et det. C. Pârvu), 6 ♀♀ of about 23 mm length, collected from Tinosu (Prahova county), at 100 m altitude, on 24.V.1981 (leg. et det. C. Pârvu, 1 ♀ of 23 mm length, collected from Zboina Neagră (near Soveja, Vrancea county), at 1350 m altitude, on 26.VI.1971 (leg. Aristița Goagă, det. C. Pârvu). The material is deposited in the collections of "Grigore Antipa" Natural History Museum, inv. no 156783.

*Distribution.* According to Chvála (1988), the species is known from: Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Germany, Czech and Slovak Republic, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, France, Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Syria (?), Palestine (?).

Pârvu (1983) mentions the species from Kavarna (Bulgaria) on the basis of a specimen from the collections of Natural History Museum of Sibiu. The species has a Central and South-European areal, being absent in North Africa; the mentions from Syria and Palestine are uncertain (Fig. 3.). In Romania, it seems to occur frequently in South and East but it is absent in central, northern and western regions (Fig. 2).

*Theriopectes tricolor* Zeller, 1842.

*Data from literature.* Dinulescu (op. cit.) mentions the species from Techirghiol and Brădescu (1963) that one from Comarova (a forest near Constanța), on the Black Sea shore. Lehrer and Fromunda (1982) mention it also in Dobrogea from Slava Cercheză (situated at 200 m altitude) in Babadag Plateau.

*Material.* It is preserved in the scientific collection of Romanian dipterans of "Grigore Antipa" Museum, inv. no 155690:1 ♂, of 21 mm length, collected in Comarova forest, on 26.VI.1962 (leg. et det. VI. Brădescu), 1 ♂ of 21 mm length, collected from Jijila (Tulcea county), at a about 100 m altitude, on 6.VI.1980 (leg. et det. C. Pârvu) and 1 ♀, of 19 mm length, collected from Techirghiol (Constanța County), on 18.VI. 1955 (leg. Xenia Scobiola, det. Gh. Dinulescu).

*Distribution.* In the Palaearctic Region it is known from Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Pre Caucasus (Krasnodar area), Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey, Iran (?). In order to complete the areal of this mediterraneo-ponto-caspian species I used also the distribution of the synonymous taxons of the nominated species as well as Pârvu and Giray's mention (1984) from Bornova (Turkey) (Fig. 4). In Romania the species seems to be quartered only in Dobrogea (Fig. 2) and Jijila is the north-western limit of its general areal in which it was mentioned.

*Theriopectes tunicatus* (Szilády, 1927).

*Material:* 1 ♂ of 21,5 mm length collected from Tinosu (Prahova county), on 27.V.1981 (leg. et det. C. Pârvu); it is preserved in the tabanids collections (within the Romanian dipteran collection) of the "Grigore Antipa" Museum, inv. no 156935.

*Identification features.* Unlike all other species of the genus, in both sexes the abdominal tergite no "II" is covered with a white-yellowish, thick, long pilosity as tergite no "I" is, and the mesonotum (Fig. 1) which gives the impression of a tunic,



Fig. 1 - *Theriopectes tunicatus* (Szilády), ♂ - dorsal view.

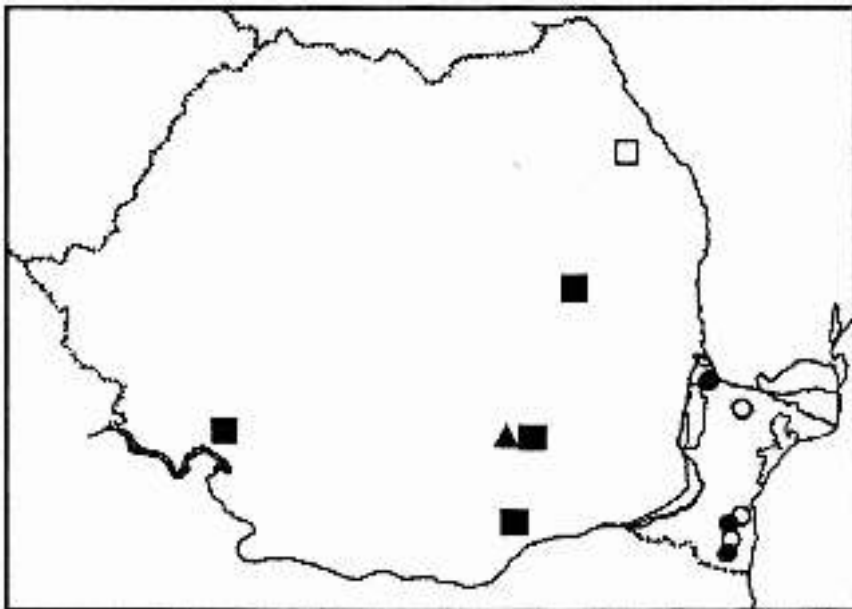


Fig. 2 - *Theriopectes* Zeller species distribution map in România

- □ - *T. gigas* (Herbst) (full square = material, empty square = literature)
- ○ - *T. tricolor* Zeller (full circle = material, empty circle - literature)
- ▲ - *T. tunicatus* (Szilády)

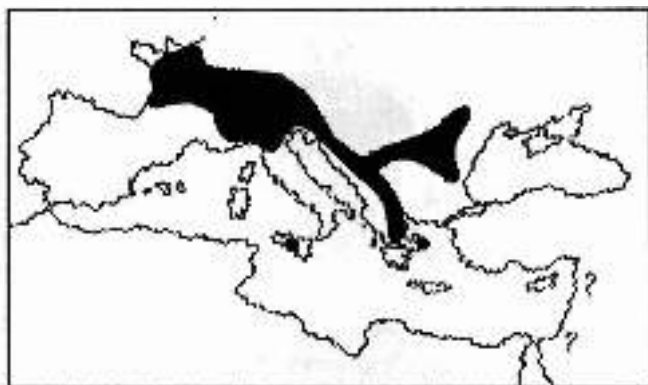


Fig. 3 – The areal of the species *Theriopectes gigas* (Herbst).

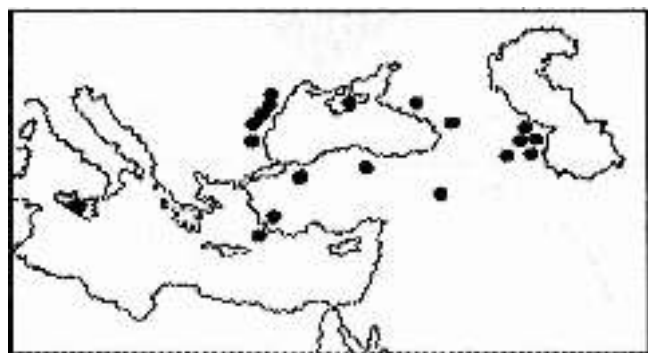


Fig. 4 – The areal of the species *Theriopectes tricolor* Zeller

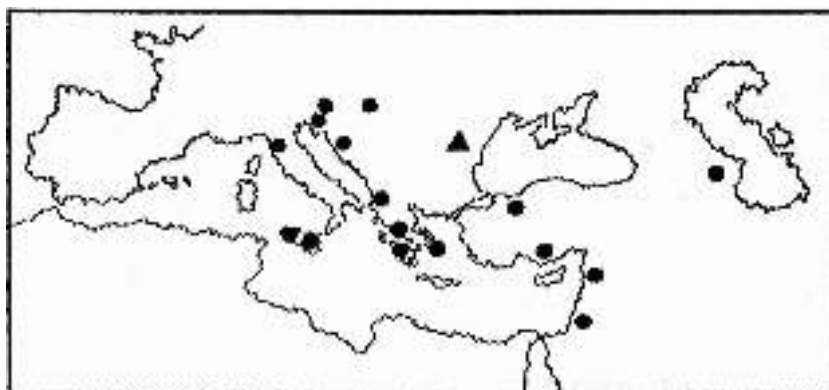


Fig. 5 – The areal of the species *Theriopectes tunicatus* (Szilády).

- – mentions made in literature
- ▲ – the first mention in Romania

on the whole. Frons, face and palpus have a whitish pubescence, while in *T. gigas* and *T. tricolor* it is black or brown-redish.

*Distribution:* According to Leclercq (1966) and Chvála (1988), the species is known from: Azerbaijan (Alazan -Munjalo in the meadow of Kura River), Turkey (Ada Pazar, Taurus Mountains), Greece (Poros, Tinos, Kalavrita, Myologousta), Hungary (Szar and Szalonca), Albania, Dalmatia, Sicily, Syria (Akbes), Israel. Owing to this mention, the outline of the northern border of this species' areal is completed, Romania lying northwards of it (Fig. 5).

### CONCLUSIONS

1. It is certified the presence of *Theriopectes gigas* (H.) and *T. tricolor* Z. species in Romania and it is completed the knowledge of their distribution, first species to the east and to the south of Romania and the second one with a limited distribution, only in Dobrogea.

2. *T. tunicatus* (Sz.) is mentioned for the first time in Romania's fauna so that it can be ascertained the presence of all 3 European species of *Theriopectes* genus in Romania.

3. It is completed the northern border of the 3 species' areal, to which Romania proves to be placed at the limit of northern, north-eastern and north-western areal, including it within the areal of the nominated species and of the distribution of the synonymized taxons and by marking the recent mentions on Leclercq's (op, cit.) maps of areals.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I take this opportunity to thank again Mrs. Ioana Matache and Mrs. Ileana Negoescu for the critical reading of the manuscript, Mrs. Mihaela Barcan for the English translation, Mrs. Gabriela Lungu for tracing the maps in China ink and Mr. V. Burlacu for taking the photo.

### GENUL *THERIOPECTES* ZELLER, 1982 (DIPTERA, TABANIDAE) ÎN ROMÂNIA, CU SEMNALAREA LUI *T. TUNICATUS* (SZILÁDY, 1927)

### REZUMAT

Se prezintă stadiul cunoașterii genului *Theriopectes* Zeller în România, pe baza materialului din colecțiile Muzeului de istorie Naturală "Grigore Antipa" din București și a datelor din literatura de specialitate.

Se semnalează pentru prima dată în fauna țării specia *T. tunicatus* (Szilády, 1927) care, împreună cu *T. gigas* (Herbst) și *T. tricolor* Zeller completează și pentru România triada de specii semnalate pînă în prezent în partea europeană a Regiunii Palearctice.

Din harta localităților de unde a fost colectat materialul și au fost semnalate aceste specii, reiese că genul este cunoscut din estul și sudul României și nu există date din centrul, nordul și vestul țării.

Arealul celor trei specii, completat cu ultimele semnalări, cu datele din material și prin includerea taxonilor sinonimi, demonstrează că România se situează la limita nordică, nord vestică și nord estică a acestor specii central europene și mediteraneo-ponto-caspice.

#### REFERENCES

- BRĂDESCU (VL.), 1963 - Données nouvelles sur deux Diptères roumains rares. *Trav. Mus. Hist. nat. "Grigore Antipa"*, 4: 315-317.
- CHVÁLA (M.), 1988 - (Family Tabanidae). In: SOÓS A., PAPP L., Catalogue of Palaerctic Diptera 5: 97-171. *Budapest*.
- DINULESCU (GH.), 1958 - Familia Tabanidae. In: Fauna R. P. Române, 11, 2: 1-276. *București*.
- LECLERCQ (M.), 1966 - Révision systématique et biogéographique des Tabanidae (Diptera) Paléarctiques. *Mém. Inst. r. Sci. nat. Belg. (Deuxième série)*, 80: 1-237. *Bruxelles*.
- LEHRER (A.Z.), FROMUNDA (V.), 1982 - Contribuții tabanidologice din nordul Dobrogei (Diptera: Tabanidae). *Anal. științ. Univ. "Al. I. Cuza-Iași", Secț. II. (Biol.)* 28: 99-101.
- PĂRVU (C.), 1983 - Tabanidae (Diptera) din colecțiile Muzeului de Istorie Naturală din Sibiu. *Stud. Comun., științ. nat., - Muz. Brukenthal* 25: 303-313. *Sibiu*.
- PĂRVU (C.), GIRAY (H.), 1984 - Contribution to the knowledge of some Tabanids (diptera) of Turkey. *Trav. Mus. Hist. nat. "Grigore Antipa"*, 25: 217-225.

Received: 22 April 1992

Muzeul de Istorie Naturală "Grigore Antipa"  
Șos. Kiseleff 1,  
79744, București 2, Romania.