

FIRST RECORD OF *SYMPETRUM MERIDIONALE* (ODONATA, LIBELLULIDAE) IN LITHUANIA

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Introduction

Recently, the checklist of Odonata living and appearing as migrants in Lithuania has been expanded, changed and discussed several times. The last checklist is presented in the book about dragonflies and damselflies of Lithuania (Gliwa & Švitra, 2016). Additionally, one new species – *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) – has been identified and reliable observations of *Sympecma fusca* (Vander Linden, 1820) confirmed the presence of this species in Lithuania (Gliwa *et al.*, 2016). This note adds one more species – *Sympetrum meridionale* (Selys, 1841) – to the local fauna.

Material and Methods

The bird traps of Ventės Ragas ornithological station along with birds and bats catch a large number of dragonflies and few damselflies as well. In September 2016 the author (V.J.) started to mark dragonflies and damselflies with a permanent marker and identify them. The season 2017 led to the identification of 15,918 individuals of 46 Odonata species. Marked dragonflies have always been released. Dragonflies of rare species or such with atypical colouring or markings have also been documented using a SLR digital camera.

Locality

Ventės Ragas bird traps at the ornithological station 55.3414N 21.1917E

Results

A single female (25 09 2017) (Fig. 1) and a male (27 09 2017) were captured in the bird traps of Ventės Ragas and documented with pictures. Leg. & det. in both cases – Vytautas Jusys. The size of the individuals was as follows: female 37 mm length and 59 mm wingspan, male 36 mm length and 57.5 mm wingspan.



Fig. 1. A female of *Sympetrum meridionale* at Ventès Ragas, 25 09 2017, photo: Vytautas Jusys

Discussion

Sympetrum meridionale is a southern species with an area of occurrence encompassing South Europe, parts of Central Europe, the very northern part of Africa, western and central parts of Asia (Boudot & Kalkmann, 2015). In the close neighbourhood the species was observed twice in 2010 in a birds trap in the Kaliningrad Oblast of Russia (Shapoval & Buczyński, 2012) – this place is located about 40 km afar from Ventès Ragas. The species has been found as well in Northern Poland, near Suwałki (Bernard *et al.*, 2009), which is also close to Lithuania (approx. 50 km). It has been outlined that the species is found in Poland mostly in man-made habitats (Bernard *et al.*, 2009). So, the appearance of *S. meridionale* in Lithuania was expected and all the *Sympetrum* spp. have been checked for it.

The observation of *S. meridionale* in Lithuania is very likely due to the migration, considering that the coastline of the Baltic Sea seems to serve as a migration corridor not only for birds but also for dragonflies.

References

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Pirmas *Sympetrum meridionale* (Odonata, Libellulidae) stebėjimas Lietuvoje

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Santrauka

Sympetrum meridionale (Selys, 1841) buvo pirmą kartą pastebėta Lietuvoje 2017 09 25 (viena patelė), o pakartotinai – 2017 09 27 (vienas patinas) Ventės Rago ornitologinės stoties tinkluose.

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