

NEW RECORDS OF *SCOLIA HIRTA* IN LITHUANIA (HYMENOPTERA: SCOLIIDAE)

EDUARDAS BUDRYS^{1, 2}

¹ – Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania.

² – Department of Zoology of Vilnius University, M.K.Čiurlionio g. 21/27, LT-03101 Vilnius, Lithuania. E-mail: ebudrys@eko.lt

Introduction

Scolia hirta (Schrank, 1781) is a scoliid wasp species, widespread in the steppe and forest-steppe zone of the Western Palearctic. It is found in southern Lithuania at its northern distribution limit. Up to now, the species has been reported from four sites in Lithuania (Budrys, 2007).

The objective of this contribution is to supplement the data on distribution of *Scolia hirta* in Lithuania by new records.

Material and methods

The wasps were collected by entomological net or observed directly by the author in 2007. The collected specimen is preserved in the Institute of Ecology of Vilnius University.

Records

Scolia hirta (Schrank, 1781)

Varėna district, Trasninkas (54°06'29"N, 24°16'04"E), 17 07 2007, dry meadow, 1♂, collected on *Jasione montana* flowers; 3 km S of Puvočiai (54°05'18"N, 24°18'54"E), open *Corynephorus* grassland on inland dunes, 24 07 2007, 1♀, observed flying, captured, identified and released.

Discussion

The species is protected by law and included into the national Red Data Book (Budrys, 1992, 2007). It is also protected in several adjacent countries in the northern part of its distribution range: Poland (Banaszak, 2004), Sweden (ArtDatabanken..., 2007), Germany (Rote Listen online, 2007). At its northern distribution limit, the populations of *S. hirta* survive in xerothermic early successional habitats, as eroded slopes of southern exposition and well-drained open grasslands with sparse vegetation. The main threat is loss of suitable habitats due to afforestation of dry grasslands and artificial fixing of eroded slopes, as well as lack of disturbances (forest fires, erosion and grazing) that provide these habitats.

The new finding site of *Scolia hirta* in southern Lithuania, the Trasninkas village, is just 4 km to northwest from an earlier known and now confirmed site, a large forest glade 3 km south of Puvočiai. The habitat at Trasninkas is an extensively grazed in the

past dry natural meadow at the edge of village, with spots of sparse vegetation on nearly open sand, surrounded by pine forest. Due to recent abandonment, it is invaded by young pines, thus the habitat may be lost in the future due to natural succession and lack of disturbance.

The site three km south of Puvočiai is a glade in pine forest on inland dunes, formed by wild forest fire fifteen years ago. Most of this area was re-afforested soon after the fire, thus only small areas of still open *Corynephorus* grassland habitats (EU Habitat Directive, Annex I, habitat 2330) are available up to now. *Scolia hirta* specimens were collected or observed there in 2000 and 2002. The observation of 2007 confirms that population of this rare species still survives in this area.

References

- Banaszak J. 2004. *Scolia hirta* Schrank, 1781. In Z. Glowacinski, J. Nowacki (eds) *Polish Red Data Book. Invertebrates* (Internet version). Available at <http://www.iop.krakow.pl/pckz/opis.asp?id=163&je=pl>. Accessed November 24, 2007.
- Budrys E. 1992. Gauruotoji skolija. *Scolia hirta* Schrank. In K. Balevičius (ed.) *Red Data Book of Lithuania [Lietuvos raudonoji knyga]*. Vilnius, 140.
- Budrys E. 2007. Gauruotoji skolija. *Scolia hirta* (Schrank, 1781). In V. Rašomavičius (ed.) *Red Data Book of Lithuania [Lietuvos raudonoji knyga]*. Vilnius, 154.
- ArtDatabanken. The Swedish Species Information Centre. 2007. Rödlista. <http://www.artdata.slu.se/rodlista/index.cfm>. Accessed November 24, 2007.
- Rote Listen online. 2007. Available at www.science4you.org/platform/redlists/index.do. Accessed November 24, 2007.

Nauji *Scolia hirta* (Hymenoptera: Scoliidae) stebėjimai Lietuvoje

E. BUDRYS

Santrauka

Pateikiami duomenys apie vieną naują (aptiktą Trasninko kaime) ir vieną naujai patvirtintą (buvusi miško gaisravietė 3 km į pietus nuo Puvočių kaimo) plėviasparnių vabzdžių rūšies – gauruotosios skolijos (*Scolia hirta*) – radvietes Varėnos rajone. Aptariama šios saugomos, įtrauktos į Lietuvos raudonąją knygą, rūšies buveinė šiaurinėje jos arealo dalyje ir pagrindinės grėsmės.

Received: November 25, 2007