

NEW AND RARE FOR LITHUANIA INSECT SPECIES RECORDED FROM MERKINĖ ENVIRONS IN 2008

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Introduction

Merkinė is an old town at the valley of the Nemunas river located in the South of Lithuania. Its environs are full of dry ravines and steppe meadows where many populations of specific species of insects are recorded.

Material and Methods

The material was collected in Merkinė environs (Varėna administrative district, Southern Lithuania, 54°10'N 24°11'E), in the valley of the Nemunas in the steppe meadows with swards of *Securigera* (= *Coronilla*) *varia* L., *Scabiosa ochroleuca* L., and *Thymus* sp. The material was collected with a standard entomological net by the author of this report and it is preserved in the collection of the Department of Zoology, Vilnius University.

The material was identified using different identification keys (Kazlauskas, 1984; Elsner *et al.* 1999; Razowski, 2001; Ivinskis & Augustauskas, 2004). Rarity categories have been checked according to the checklist of Lepidoptera of Lithuania (Ivinskis, 2004).

New species for the Lithuanian fauna are marked with an asterisk (*).

List of species

LEPIDOPTERA

GELECHIIDAE

****Syncopacma coronillella* (Treischke, 1833)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂ in the steppe meadow with *Securigera varia* (L.).

ZYGAENIDAE

***Zygaena* (*Zygaena*) *angelicae* Ochseneheimer, 1808**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, about 40 spec. close to their food plants *Securigera varia* L.

***Zygaena* (*Zygaena*) *loti* (Denis & Schiffmüller, 1775)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, about 30 spec. in all investigated steppe meadows.

***Zygaena* (*Mesembrynus*) *purpuralis purpuralis* (Brünnich, 1763)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, about 30 spec., 22 06 2008, 1 larva on *Thymus* sp. Imago hatched in 10 07 2008.

TORTRICIDAE

***Dichrorampha vancouverana* McDunnough, 1935 (= *gueneana* Obraztsov, 1953)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♀.

***Dichrorampha incognitana* (Kremky & Moslowsky, 1933)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂.

PYRALIDAE

***Pyrausta nigrata* (Scopoli, 1763)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 1 spec.

SPHINGIDAE

***Hemaris tityus* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Merkinė, 22 06 2008, 1 spec., 1 half grown larva.

HESPERIDAE

***Erynnis tages* (Lennaeus, 1758)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 2 spec. at the edge of a pine forest

***Pyrgus serratulae* (Rambur, 1839)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 1 spec.

PAPILIONIDAE

***Papilio machaon* Linnaeus, 1758**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1 spec.

LYCAENIDAE

***Pseudophilotes vicrama* (Moore, 1865)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 2♂, 22 06 2008, 1♂.

***Glaucopsyche (Glaucopsyche) alexis* (Poda, 1761)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 2♂; 22 06 2008, 5 spec.

***Plebeius (Plebeius) argyrognomon* (Bergsträsser, 1779)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♀.

***Plebeius (Aricia) artaxerxes* (Fabricius, 1793)**

Merkinė, 31 05 2008, 1♂.

***Polyommatus (Meleageria) coridon* (Poda, 1761)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂.

***Polyommatus (Polyommatus) dorylas* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂, 1♀.

NYMPHALIDAE

***Melitaea britomartis* Assman, 1847**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂.

GEOMETRIDAE

***Idaea humiliata* (Hufnagel, 1767)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂, 1♀.

ARCTIIDAE

***Coscinia striata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Merkinė, 22 06 2008, 1♂, 21 07 2008, 4♂ 1♀.

HYMENOPTERA

SCOLIIDAE

***Scolia hirta* (Schrank, 1781)**

Merkinė, 12 07 2008, 1♂.

Discussion

For the first time for the Lithuanian fauna we found *Zygaena angelicae* in Punia env. in 10 07 1969. It was found by us in Merkinė in 10 07 1983. At that time it was not rare

in steppe meadows in the valley of the Nemunas river (we did not find any specimen on 20 07 1999 nor 17 07 2004). Its food plants *Securigera varia* L. were scarce as well.

We found *Zygaena loti* in Merkinė in 31 07 1999 and 17 07 2004. One *Z. loti* male recorded in 12 07 2008 had a red ring on its abdomen like *Z. ephialtes* (L.).

Population of *Polyommatus coridon* was found by us for the first time for the Lithuanian fauna close to the Nemunas river near Rumšiškės (Kaunas district) in 22 06 1953. At present Kaunas Reservoir is in this place.

Zygaena ephialtes was found by us in Merkinė in 08 07 1976. We found it in 10 07 1983 and 22 07 1984 not only in steppe meadows, but also by the pine forest wayside where *Securigera varia* L. grew. Despite the intensive search in 12 07 2008, this moth was not recorded from Merkinė environs.

Seven species of insects registered in Merkinė environs are included into the Red Data Book of Lithuania: *Zygaena angelicae*, *Z. loti*, *Erynnis tages*, *Pyrgus serratulae*, *Papilio machaon*, *Glaucopsyche alexis* and *Scolia hirta*.

References

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Naujos ir retos Lietuvos vabzdžių rūšys užregistruotos Merkinės apylinkėse 2008 metais

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Santrauka

2008 metais Merkinės apylinkių stepinėse pievose rastos į Lietuvos raudonąją knygą įrašytos 6 drugių rūšys (*Zygaena angelicae*, *Z. loti*, *Erynnis tages*, *Pyrgus serratulae*, *Papilio machaon*, *Glaucopsyche alexis*) ir skolija (*Scolia hirta*). Rasta nauja Gelechiidae drugių rūšis – raženinė synkopakma (*Syncopacma coronillella*).

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