

NEW RECORD OF *LOCUSTA MIGRATORIA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (ORTHOPTERA: ACRIDIDAE) FROM LITHUANIA

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Introduction

Locusta migratoria (Linnaeus, 1758) is a rare visitor, migrating far from its breeding sites and occasionally reaching Lithuania. This species was not observed in Lithuania for more than 60 years (Budrys & Pakalniškis, 2007).

The article presents new data on *Locusta migratoria* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Lithuania.

Material and Methods

One specimen of *Locusta migratoria* (Linnaeus, 1758) was caught using a standart entomological net in the Rūdninkai former military area (Šalčininkai administrative district). The photos were taken (Fig. 1) and specimen was let free.

List of localities

Šalčininkai district, Rūdninkai former military area 54°23'12"N, 25°06'02"E



Fig. 1. *Locusta migratoria* in Rūdninkai former military area in 20101

List of species

ACRIDIDAE

Locusta migratoria (Linnaeus, 1758)

Rūdninkai former military area, 03 08 2010, 1 spec.

Discussion

Migratory locust has the largest world distribution area among all locusts and grasshoppers, comprising practically all temperate and tropical parts of the eastern hemisphere, i.e. Europe, Africa incl. Madagascar, Arabian and Indo-Pakistan peninsulas, Caucasus, Central and South-eastern Asia, Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. The northern limit of this huge distribution range corresponds roughly to the southern edge of the coniferous forest zone of Europe and Asia. Southern extension reaches New Zealand. The western limit corresponds to the Azores, in the Atlantic Ocean, and the eastern one to at least the Fiji, in the Pacific Ocean. The altitudinal distribution of the species is also amazingly wide, from sea-level to more than 4000 m in Central Asian Mountains (WyGISc, 2011).

Sometimes *Locusta migratoria* from Ukraine's steppes migrates to the north reaching Baltic and Scandinavian countries (Mastauskis, 1937). This species have been found in all Baltic states also in other neighbour countries – Belarus, Kaliningrad region and Poland (Heller, 2011). Migrations reaching the southern coast of Finland took place in 2000, 2006 and 2007 (Karjalainen, 2008). Only few cases are known when specimens of this species were caught in Lithuania - last time it was in 1937 (Budrys & Pakalniškis, 2007). Time by time Lithuanian media gives information about appearance of *Locusta migratoria* in our country, but such data can't be fully trusted until it is confirmed by entomologists.

References

- Budrys E., Pakalniškis S. 2007. The Orthoptera (Insecta of Lithuania). *Acta Zoologica Lituonica* 17 (2): 105–115.
- WyGISc, 2011. Wyoming Geographic Information Science Center. Asian Migratory locust. Available at <http://locusts.wygisc.org/asian-migratory-locust.aspx> (Accessed October 7, 2011).

Nauji duomenys apie skėrį kelevį (*Locusta migratoria* (Linnaeus, 1758), Orthoptera: Acrididae) Lietuvoje

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Santrauka

Straipsnyje pateikiami nauji duomenys apie skėrį kelevį *Locusta migratoria* (Linnaeus, 1758) Lietuvoje. Yra žinomi tik keli šio skėrio stebėjimo atvejai Lietuvoje. Ši rūšis mūsų šalyje nebuvo sugauta daugiau nei 60 metų.

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