

TAXIGRAMMA ELEGANTULA (ZETTERSTEDT, 1844) – NEW TO THE FAUNA OF LITHUANIA (DIPTERA: SARCOPHAGIDAE)ERIKAS LUTOVINOVAS¹, RIMVYDAS KINDURIS²¹Nature Research Centre, State Research Institute, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania.

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Introduction

The genus *Taxigramma* Perris includes small species of the flesh flies (Sarcophagidae) that could be characterized in Europe by the protruding frons, closed wing cell r4+5 and conical abdomen (Pape, 1996). It is a moderate genus with 19 valid species in the Holarctic, Oriental and Afrotropical regions (Pape, 1998; Richet *et al.*, 2013); however, in the earlier taxonomic concept it had the status of a subtribe and contained at least three separate genera (Verves, 1989; Povolný & Verves, 1997), or even two subtribes, attributed to different tribes (Rohdendorf, 1967; Verves, 1986). Species of this genus are kleptoparasites in the nests of solitary wasps in sandy biotopes, and they are the most representative in the arid and semi-arid areas of warm climate (Pape, 1987; 1996; 1998). Like in the cases of other related taxa, females of *Taxigramma* spp. may trail potential hosts at a certain distance often keeping the distance within a very narrow range, a habit for which they have received the name of the satellite flies (Miltogramminae). These flies follow a wasp as it transports its prey and larviposit immediately after provision of the nest by the wasp (Spofford & Kurczewski, 1990).

There are six species of this genus known from Europe, with four of them recorded in most countries of Northern and Central Europe (Pape *et al.*, 2013). However, only one of these species was previously recorded in Lithuania (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006). The new for Lithuania *Taxigramma* Perris species is presented in this publication.

Material and methods

The material was photographed in the Baltic coastal dunes (western Lithuania). The identification was consulted with Pape (1987) and Povolný & Verves (1997). The taxonomy and general distribution followed by Pape (1996) and Pape *et al.* (2013). The list of Lithuanian species of the flesh flies was compiled from Pakalniškis *et al.* (2006).

List of localities

Locality	Administrative district	Coordinates (LAT, LONG)
Pervalka, Curonian Spit NP	Neringa mun.	55.4094, 21.0697;
Šventoji	Palanga mun.	56.0350, 21.0729.

Result

Taxigramma (Paragusia) elegantula (Zetterstedt, 1844)

Pervalka, 02 06 2011, 1♂, resting on sand (photo R. Ferenca); Šventoji, 14 06 2017, 1♂, resting on sand (photo R. Kinduris; Fig. 1).

West, Central and East Palaearctic species; hosts not known with certainty (Pape, 1987; Povolný & Verves, 1997).



Figure 1. *Taxigramma elegantula* from the Baltic coastal dunes (Šventoji, Lithuania)

Discussion

The Lithuanian fauna has been supplemented by a new species of the genus *Taxigramma* Perris (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006). This species is widespread in Northern and Central parts of our continent, with southernmost records reaching France, Hungary and Ukraine (Pape *et al.*, 2013), though also recorded from Southern Russia, the Middle East, Central and Eastern Asia (Pape, 1996). Presented records of this species take place from sandy habitats of the Baltic coast of Lithuania. This species is also known from the Baltic coast of Poland, though more numerous records originate from psammophilic habitats of this country distant from the Baltic sea (Draber-Mońko, 1973; Szpila, 2009). On the contrary, it may be considered as a rather uncommon species in the coastal habitats of Poland, as it has not been recorded in the specialized study of the flesh flies from the coastal dunes (Kaczorowska, 2009). Therefore, we may admit that this species could also be recorded in Lithuania in sandy habitats situated deeper inland.

Altogether, thirty-five species of the flesh flies are currently known from Lithuania, including two species of the genus *Taxigramma* Perris (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006). The same number of the *Taxigramma* species has been recently confirmed from Finland (Pohjoismäki & Kahanpaa, 2014); however, there are as many as four species of this genus known from northern part of Poland and Sweden (Pape *et al.*, 2013; Szpila, 2009), thus the real number of the *Taxigramma* species in Lithuania may still be twice as large.

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***Taxigramma elegantula* (Zetterstedt, 1844) – nauja Lietuvos faunos rūšis (Diptera: Sarcophagidae)**

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Santrauka

Lietuvos fauna yra papildyta antrąja *Taxigramma* Perris genties rūšimi. Pateiktos radvietės yra Baltijos pajūrio kopose. Kaimyninėse šalyse ši rūšis yra labiau paplitusi psamofilinėse buveinėse, esančiose toliau nuo pajūrio, todėl mūsų šalyje ji taip pat yra ieškotina nutolusiose nuo jūros smėlynų buveinėse. Šiuo metu Lietuvos faunoje yra minimos 35 mėsmusių (Sarcophagidae) rūšys, iš kurių dvi rūšys priklauso minėtai genčiai. Kaimyninių šalių duomenys leidžia manyti, kad dar dvi šios genties rūšys yra tikėtinos rasti Lietuvoje ateityje.

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