

***ECTOPHASIA OBLONGA* (ROBINEAU–DESVOIDY, 1830) – NEW TO THE FAUNA OF LITHUANIA (DIPTERA: TACHINIDAE)**

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Introduction

The genus *Ectophasia* Townsend comprises of tachinid flies with dorsally flattened abdomens and patterned wings, rather similar to the species-rich genus *Phasia* Latreille in the general appearance, but not much related to them and recently transferred to a different tribe Gymnosomatini Townsend (Tschorsnig, 1985; Blasche *et al.*, 2018). They could be easily recognized from species of the aforementioned genus by the wider frons than the ocellar triangle and also by the open wing cell r4+5 (Crosskey, 1976; Tschorsnig & Richter, 1998). This small genus comprises of six species recognized in the Palaearctic and Oriental regions (Herting, 1984; O’Hara *et al.*, 2020); however, most recently it was considered paraphyletic in respect to another small genus *Clytiomya* Rondani (Euo & Han, 2021). Females of these genera have a habit to attach separate eggs to the thorax of adult hosts and the precise location of the attached eggs is species specific (Dupuis, 1963; Colazza & Bin, 1990). Being specialized parasitoids of the true bugs (Hemiptera: Heteroptera), they are tending to be generalists in comparison with the parasitoid wasps (Stireman *et al.*, 2006; Tschorsnig, 2017). Several species are considered as parasitoids of economically important pests from Mediterranean countries and the Middle East (Kıvan, 1996; Gözüaçik *et al.*, 2010).

The European fauna comprises of three species, one of which was strictly Mediterranean and the other two were distributed northwards to southern Germany during most of the past century (Herting, 1984), but these species have been recorded wider during the subsequent decades (Tschorsnig & Herting, 1994; Zeegers *et al.*, 2001). *Ectophasia crassipennis* (Fabricius, 1794) is therefore considered as a recent immigrant to Scandinavia (Bergström & Hall, 2008), but was recorded in our country more than a decade before (Pakalniškis & Podėnas, 1992). The second species of this genus new for Lithuania and also new for northern Europe is provided in this publication.

Material and methods

The material has been photographed from the southern part of our country at the roadside of the Revai village, Alytus distr. (54.325264, 23.963253). This locality is surrounded by mowed grasslands and cultivated fields. The identification, taxonomy and general distribution of the photographed insect followed Tschorsnig & Herting (1994), Tschorsnig *et al.* (2013) and O’Hara *et al.* (2020). The list of Lithuanian species of the tachinid flies was compiled from Pakalniškis *et al.* (2006) and later contributions (Lutovinovas, 2007; 2009; 2010; 2012; Lutovinovas & Steiblys, 2017). The photographed specimen has not been collected.

Result

Ectophasia oblonga (Robineau–Desvoidy, 1830)

Revai, 01 08 2020, 1♂, roadside in the village, near the cultivated field, on a bunch of *Artemisia vulgaris* (photo V. Kilinskas; Fig. 1).

Disjunct Palaearctic species (O'Hara *et al.*, 2020); hosts are true bugs of the families Scutelleridae, Pentatomidae, Lygaeidae, Coreidae and, to a minor extent, also others (Hemiptera: Heteroptera) (Tschorsnig, 2017).



Figure 1. *Ectophasia oblonga* from Revai village, resting on a bunch of Common Mugwort (photo V. Kilinskas)

Discussion

The Lithuanian fauna has been supplemented by a second species of the genus *Ectophasia* Townsend (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006). This moderate bug-killing fly (Fig. 1) is distributed from Mediterranean countries of Europe and the Middle East in the south to countries of central Europe and central part of European Russia in the north, and most recently has been recognized also from northeastern China (O'Hara *et al.*, 2020). The species is unknown from northwestern and northern parts of Europe, including British Isles, the Netherlands, Denmark, Fennoscandia, other Baltic Republics, as well as northwestern and northern parts of European Russia (Tschorsnig *et al.*, 2013). It has been thought to be distributed northwards to southern Germany during most of the past century and extended further northwards during the subsequent decades (Herting, 1984; Tschorsnig & Herting, 1994), but misidentified specimens have been found afterwards in

old collections from northeastern Germany, suggesting that the species had a wider distribution in eastern part of Europe also in the past decades (Ziegler, 2011).

Based on the literature, the recorded species prefers dry and warm areas of Central Europe (Tschorsnig & Herting, 1994), what possibly explain its absence in northern part of western Europe; nevertheless, the species is not confined to such areas being widespread throughout the territory of Poland (Szpila & Bystrowski, 2014). Most of the rearing records of this species come from the Sunn Pest – *Eurygaster integriceps* Puton, 1881 (Hemiptera: Scutelleridae) (Tschorsnig, 2017) – which is an economically important pest of wheat in Mediterranean countries and the Middle East (Kıvan, 1996; Gözüaçik *et al.*, 2010). Judging from the rearing records of this species from the agricultural pests, it should be well adapted to the agrarian environment, which is also reflected from the original data of our record obtained near the cultivated field.

We provide here a northernmost record of this species known until the present (Tschorsnig *et al.*, 2013). This is a second species of this genus known from our country and additional species are not suspected to be found. The total number of the tachinid flies of Lithuanian fauna has increased to 278 species (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006; Lutovinovas, 2007; 2009; 2010; 2012; Lutovinovas & Steiblys, 2017), but this number insufficiently represents the actual fauna of our country and might be supplemented by about a hundred of additional species of other genera in the future.

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***Ectophasia oblonga* (Robineau–Desvoidy, 1830) – nauja Lietuvos faunos rūšis (Diptera: Tachinidae)**

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Santrauka

Pateikiami duomenys apie pirmus dygliamusės *Ectophasia oblonga* stebėjimus Lietuvoje, šalies pietinėje dalyje. Tai yra šiauriausia šios rūšies radvietė Rytų Europoje, o Vakarų Europoje jos paplitimas nesiekia šių platumų. Literatūros duomenimis, rūšis yra dažnesnė sausose ir šiltose Centrinės Europės srityse ir tai, matyt, paaiškina jos nebuvimą Vakarų Europos šiaurėje. Vabzdys stebėtas tupintis paprastojo kiekio viršūnėje kaimo pakelėje, šalia dirbamo lauko. Dygliamusė yra žinoma kaip įvairių rūšių blakių (Hemiptera: Heteroptera), dažnai sutinkamų žemės ūkio naudmenose, parazitoidas, todėl šios dygliamusės radvietė šalia dirbamo lauko nekelia nuostabos. Tai yra antra šios genties rūšis Lietuvoje ir daugiau rūšių aptikti nesitikima. Šiuo metu Lietuvoje yra nustatytos 278 dygliamusių rūšys, bet šis skaičius yra labai nepilnas ir ateityje tikėtina jį papildyti maždaug šimtu rūšių.

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