

## **HORISME RADICARIA (DE LA HARPE 1855) – A NEW SPECIES FOR LITHUANIAN FAUNA AND OTHER LEPIDOPTERAN RECORDS OF 2024**

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### **Introduction**

The lepidopteran species of Central and Western Europe continue to spread to Lithuania. For example, *Horisme corticata*, *Cirrhia ocellaris*, *Idaea inquinata* were reported in Lithuania recently (Batulevičius & Švitra, 2023; Ūsaitis *et al.*, 2023). The season of 2024 in Lithuania was marked by an influx of warm weather in the middle of March and April. Thus, some of the Lithuanian species of Lepidoptera appeared earlier compared to previous seasons.

In this article, the finding of the cryptic geometrid species *Horisme radicularia* (De la Harpe, 1855), one more representative of Central and Western European fauna new to the Lithuanian list of Lepidoptera, is described. The early phenology data for some Lithuanian moths and observations of interesting Lepidoptera species in the 2024 season are reported.

### **Material and Methods**

The study was conducted from February to October 2024. Several kinds of artificial light sources were used to attract moths: 250W mercury vapour and blended light lamps (Bellight, Poland), as well as 395-405 SMD 2835 LED strips. Artificial light sources were set to white cloth or to the funnel trap. Specimens of *H. radicularia* were attracted to LED strips set up to white cloth on young *Pinus sylvestris* trees growing in the dry sandy environment on the Nemunas river bank in Šančiai beach, Kaunas.

The criteria for the identification of *H. radicularia* and its separation from very similar species *H. tersata* (Denis & Schiffmüller, 1775) were the structure of genitalia (Fig. 1). In *H. radicularia* the rectangular base of the saccular process is shorter than the apical part of process. The saccular processes are sickle-shaped with strong curvature, and the left process is longer than the right in *H. radicularia* (Vossen, 2015; Lepiforum, 2024; Lewis, 2024; Wheeler, 2024). *Horisme radicularia* may be suspected by the absence of a forewing discal spot and pallor of the forewing apex costal to the dark apical streak (Lewis, 2024). Collected moths, genitalia preparations and their photos are kept in the private collection of the author.

## List of localities

Locality	Administrative district	Coordinates (LAT, LONG)
Amalviškiai	Marijampolė distr.	54.51571, 23.59457
Arlaviškės	Kaunas distr.	54.80525, 24.22628
Bogušiškės quarry	Alytus distr.	54.33862, 24.30133
Daunoriai, Krakežeris bog	Utena distr.	55.43642, 25.97385
Dubravos Miškas f.	Kaunas distr.	54.82235, 24.11912
Freda forest	Kaunas mun.	54.87007, 23.92283
Gelgaudiškis	Šakiai distr.	55.09224, 22.98836
Jiesia, Sąnašos street	Kaunas mun.	54.84924, 23.93138
Jiesia, Senajiesio street	Kaunas mun.	54.82559, 23.93338
Kriaučiškės quarry	Kaišiadoriai distr.	54.84896, 24.51868
Nešeikiai quarry	Prienai distr.	54.51171, 23.91918
Ožkiniai gardens	Vilnius mun.	54.77930, 25.37382
Palanga (1)	Palanga mun.	55.92586, 21.05742
Palanga (2)	Palanga mun.	55.92707, 21.05736
Palanga (3)	Palanga mun.	55.92533, 21.05609
Panemunė, Jiesia road	Kaunas mun.	54.85729, 23.94236
Rokai, Jiesia river valley	Kaunas mun.	54.84829, 23.93401
Salupiai	Jonava distr.	55.02904, 24.12519
Šančiai beach (1)	Kaunas mun.	54.86561, 23.93124
Šančiai beach (2)	Kaunas mun.	54.86380, 23.93187
Šančiai, Kranto alley	Kaunas mun.	54.86887, 23.93050
Šimkūnai (1)	Utena distr.	55.44016, 25.85693
Šimkūnai (2)	Utena distr.	55.44163, 25.85953
Šimkūnai (3)	Utena distr.	55.44214, 25.85961
Šimkūnai (4)	Utena distr.	55.44141, 25.85755
Šimkūnai (5)	Utena distr.	55.44242, 25.86070
Šimkūnai (6)	Utena distr.	55.44465, 25.84918
Šimkūnai (7)	Utena distr.	55.44107, 25.85631
Tauragnai quarry	Utena distr.	55.44895, 25.79485
Zatyšiai quarry	Jonava distr.	55.04593, 24.13842

## List of species

## GEOMETRIDAE

***Biston strataria* (Hufnagel, 1767)**

Šimkūnai (1), 16 03 2024, 1 spec.

***Lycia pomonaria* (Hübner, 1790)**

Šimkūnai (1), 31 03 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (2), 31 03 2024, 4 spec.

***Earophila badiata* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Rokai, Jiesia River Valley, 08 04 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (1), 24 04 2024, 3 spec.;  
Šimkūnai (2), 13 04 2024, 1 spec., 27 04 2024, 4 spec.

***Ligdia adustata* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Jiesia, Senajiesio street, 09 04 2024, 1 spec.

***Acasis viretata* (Hübner, 1799)**

Jiesia, Senajiesio street, 09 04 2024, 3 spec.

***Horisme radicularia* (De la Harpe, 1855)**

Šančiai beach (1), 02 05 2024, 1♂ spec.; Šančiai beach (2), 02 05 2024, 1♂ spec.

***Selenia lunularia* (Hübner, 1788)**

Šimkūnai (1), 24 05 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (2), 12 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Peribatodes rhomboidaria* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 26 05 2024, 1 spec., 10 06 2024, 1 spec., 27 08 2024, 4 spec., 29 08 2024, 5 spec., 04 09 2024, 1 spec.,

***Peribatodes secundaria* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šimkūnai (1), 12 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Perizoma blandiata* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šimkūnai (1), 27 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Macaria artesiaria* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Palanga (2), 01 08 2024, 1 spec.; Palanga (3) 01 08 2024, 2 spec.

## LASIOCAMPIDAE

***Gastropacha populifolia* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šimkūnai (1), 15 08 2024, 1 spec.

## ENDROMIDAE

***Endromis versicolora* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Šimkūnai (1), 31 03 2024, 3 spec.; Šimkūnai (2), 31 03 2024, 2 spec.

## SPHINGIDAE

***Macroglossum stellatarum* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Bogušiškės quarry, 05 09 2024, 1 spec.; Palanga (1), 30 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Agrius convolvuli* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 04 09 2024, 1 spec., 07 09 2024, 1 spec.

## NOTODONTIDAE

***Drymonia ruficornis* (Hufnagel, 1766)**

Freda forest, 10 04 2024, 1 spec.

***Pygaera timon* (Hübner, 1803)**

Šimkūnai (1), 04 05 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (2), 24 05 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (5), 24 05 2024, 1 spec.

## DREPANIDAE

***Polyploca ridens* (Fabricius, 1787)**

Dubravos Miškas f., 06 04 2024, 1 spec.

## EREBIDAE

***Catocala elocata* (Esper, 1787)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 04 08 2024, 2 spec., 01 09 2024, 1 spec., 14 09 2024, 3 spec.

***Simplicia rectalis* (Eversmann, 1842)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 19 08 2024, 1 spec.

## NOCTUIDAE

***Conistra rubiginosa* (Scopoli, 1763)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 24 02 2024, 1 spec.

***Orthosia populeti* (Fabricius, 1781)**

Šimkūnai (1), 16 03 2024, 4 spec.; Šimkūnai (2) 16 03 2024, 11 spec.

***Orthosia gracilis* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Ožkiniai gardens, 30 03 2024, 1 spec.

***Xylena vetusta* (Hübner, 1813)**

Šimkūnai (3), 13 04 2024, 1 spec.

***Agrotis exclamationis* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 03 05 2024, 1 spec.

***Mamestra brassicae* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Šimkūnai (1), 04 05 2024, 1 spec.

***Cucullia chamomillae* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 05 05 2024, 1 spec.

***Hecatera bicolorata* (Hufnagel, 1766)**

Šimkūnai (4), 19 05 2024, 1 spec.

***Noctua janthina* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775)**

Šimkūnai (1), 12 07 2024, 1 spec., 25 08 2024, 1 spec.

***Noctua interjecta* (Hübner, 1803)**

Šimkūnai (1), 17 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Cryphia algae* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 04 08 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (1), 17 07 2024, 1 spec.

***Noctua interposita* (Hübner, 1790)**

Šimkūnai (1), 09 08 2024, 1 spec.; 15 08 2024, 3 spec.

***Xestia stigmatica* (Hübner, 1813)**

Šimkūnai (1), 15 08 2024, 2 spec., 25 08 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (2), 09 08 2024 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (7), 16 08 2024, 1 spec.

***Phlogophora meticulosa* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 28 08 2024, 1 spec., 29 08 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (1), 15 08 2024, 1 spec., 25 08 2024, 1 spec.

***Lamprotes c-aureum* (Knoch, 1781)**

Šimkūnai (1), 25 08 2024, 1 spec.

***Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 27 08 2024, 1 spec., 30 08 2024, 1 spec., 14 09 2024, 1 spec.

***Mythimna l-album* (Linnaeus, 1767)**

Šančiai, Kranto alley, 29 08 2024, 1 spec.

NYMPHALIDAE

***Coenonympha hero* (Linnaeus, 1761)**

Daunoriai, Krakežeris bog, 05 06 2024, 1 spec.

***Melanargia galathea* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Amalviškiai, 07 07 2024, 8 spec.; Gelgaudiškis, 05 07 2024, 7 spec.; Jiesia, Sąnašos street, 01 07 2024, 7 spec.; Kriaučiškės quarry, 28 06 2024, 5 spec.; Salupiai, 21 06 2024, 1 spec.

LYCAENIDAE

***Lycaena dispar* (Haworth, 1802)**

Arlaviškės, 03 06 2024, 1 spec.; Panemunė, Jiesia road, 16 09 2024, 1 spec.; Šimkūnai (6) 26 06 2024, 1 spec.; Zatyšiai quarry, 02 06 2024, 1 spec.

PAPILIONIDAE

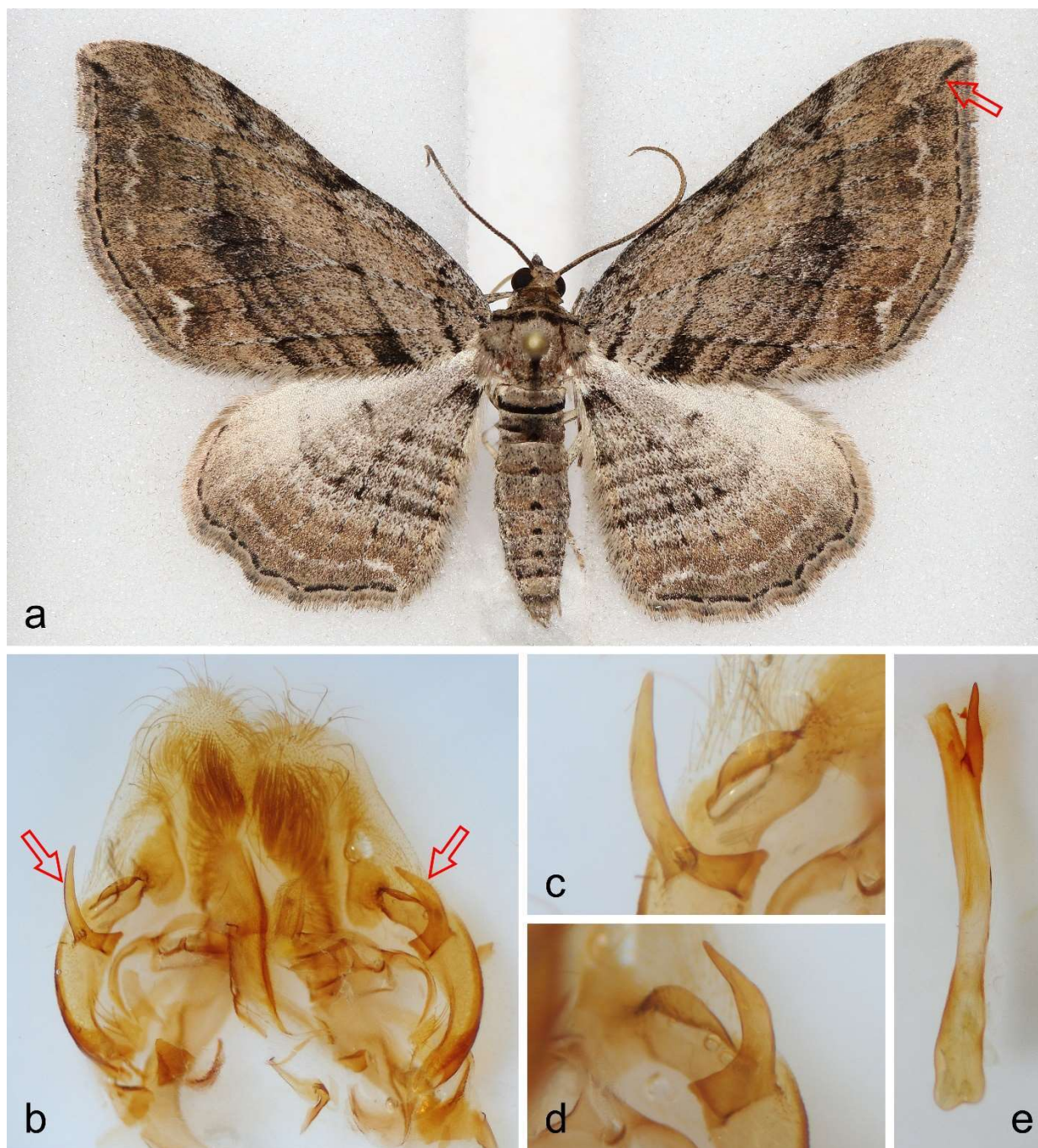
***Papilio machaon* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Nešeikiai quarry, 28 08 2024, 1 spec.; Tauragnai quarry, 18 08 2024, 1 spec.

TINEIDAE

***Scardia boletella* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Šimkūnai (1), 07 06 2024, 1 spec.



**Fig. 1.** *Horisme radicularia* (De la Harpe, 1855): **a)** upper side of forewings is brown and lacks discal spots. Note the black apical streak (arrow) and paler area costal to it. **b)** saccular processes (arrows) are sickle-shaped with strong curvatures, and the left process is longer than the right one. **c)** left saccular process at higher magnification. **d)** right saccular process at higher magnification. Note that the apical part of each saccular process is longer than its base. The base of each saccular process is wider than its height. **e)** aedeagus.

## Discussion

*Horisme radicularia* was first described by De la Harpe (1855). Later, the same species was described as *Horisme laurinata* (Schawerda, 1919; Agenjo, 1980). Taxonomical separation of *H. radicularia* from *H. tersata* was made by Rezbanyai-Reser (1984). He

concluded that *H. laurinata* (= *radicaria*) is the Atlantic-Mediterranean twin species of the more eastern *H. tersata* (Rezbanyai-Reser, 1984; Blum, 1990).

*Horisme radicaria* is a cryptic twin species of *H. tersata*, the correct identification of which requires examination of genitalia (Vossen, 2015; Steeman, 2017). Earlier considered as Atlantic-Mediterranean or Adriatic-Mediterranean species, *H. radicaria* is expanding its range in Western Europe over the last decades (Gelbrecht & Weisbach, 2015; Smith & Clancy, 2019; Steiner, 2024).

Since *H. radicaria* was recently discovered in the Netherlands, Belgium and Great Britain, a discussion started among lepidopterologists if this cryptic species was overlooked in these countries over the years or is it a newcomer (Vossen, 2015; Steeman, 2017; Smith & Clancy, 2019). In the Netherlands, the first *H. radicaria* moths were caught in 2014 (Vossen, 2015). The genitalia of earlier collected specimens of *H. tersata* were examined, and it turned out that *H. radicaria* was present in Dutch collections already from 2005. All specimens older than 2005 were identified as *H. tersata* in the Netherlands (Vossen, 2015). In Belgium the presence of *H. radicaria* was first proven by a specimen trapped in 2016 (Steeman, 2017). The analysis of specimens of *H. tersata* showed that *H. radicaria* was present in Belgium at least from 2004 (Steeman, 2017). The earliest record of *H. radicaria* in Great Britain was from 2007 (Smith & Clancy, 2019). *Horisme radicaria* is considered a recent colonist in Great Britain that expanded its range from mainland Europe (Kimber, 2024).

The current range of *H. radicaria* extends from Northern Spain, Southern France to Denmark, Eastern Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Czechia, Slovenia and Hungary (Lévêque *et al.*, 2011; Walter *et al.*, 2018; Schmidt *et al.*, 2023; GBIF, 2024). This species occurs in South Italy, Croatia and Greece (Zucco & Scalercio, 2023; Lepiforum, 2024). According to the Nordic-Baltic checklist of Lepidoptera by Aarvik *et al.* (2017), *H. radicaria* is found in Denmark, but no records are known from the Baltic States, Finland, Sweden and Norway. *Horisme radicaria* was reported in Brandenburg region, Eastern Germany, where it flies sympatrically with *H. tersata* (Gelbrecht & Weisbach, 2015). So far, there are no records of *H. radicaria* from Poland and Belarus (Buszko & Nowacki, 2017; Pisanenko *et al.*, 2019). In this respect, the finding of *H. radicaria* in Lithuania may imply the northeast expansion of the range of this species. It is also possible that *H. radicaria* was not recognized and overlooked in Lithuania and in neighbouring countries like it happened in the Netherlands and Belgium. In the present study the Lithuanian collected specimens of *H. tersata* were not analysed. The future study should thoroughly examine the genitalia of the previously collected Lithuanian specimens of *H. tersata* to determine if *H. corticata* occurs among them.

The host plant of *H. radicaria* is reported as *Clematis vitalba* (Vossen, 2015; Steeman, 2017; Kimber, 2024; Lepiforum, 2024). *Clematis vitalba* is cultivated in gardens and grows in wildlife in Lithuania (Kęstutis Obelevičius, *personal communication*). In Western Europe *H. radicaria* flies in two generations together with *H. tersata*, but *H. radicaria* is described as more thermophilous than *H. tersata* (De Prins & Steeman, 2024). Flying time for both species is similar (Kent Moth Group, 2024; Steiner, 2024). In Great Britain and Germany both species fly from April to September-October with two peaks in the end of May and August (Kent Moth Group, 2024; Steiner, 2024). *Horisme radicaria* overwinters as pupa in soil or on the ground (Kent Moth Group, 2024). Finding date of *H. radicaria* in the present study corresponds to the flying time of the first brood in Great Britain and Germany.

*Horisme tersata* in Lithuania flies from middle of May to the end of August and reaches its single flying peak at the beginning of June (LepiBase, 2024). The earliest flying time of *Horisme tersata* in LepiBase is recorded in Lithuania as 12 05 – 18 05 2002. The time of observation of *H. radicularia* in the present study was at least 10 days before that time.

**Table 1.** Summary of early observations of moths made by the author in spring 2024 as compared to the data of previous seasons stored in Lithuanian Lepidoptera database LepiBase (2024). + / - means that the observation of the present study was made later / earlier (in days) compared to the earliest observation before 2024.

Species	+ / -, in days	Earliest observation before 2024
<i>Acasis viretata</i>	-5 (at least)	14 04 – 20 04 2002
<i>Agrotis exclamationis</i>	+10	23 04 1999
<i>Biston strataria</i>	-1	17 03 2020
<i>Drymonia ruficornis</i>	-4	14 04 2010
<i>Earophila badiata</i>	-6	14 04 2007, 14 04 2010
<i>Endromis versicolora</i>	-1	31 03 2017
<i>Ligdia adustata</i>	0	09 04 2020
<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>	-8 (at least)	12 05 – 18 05 1996
<i>Orthosia gracilis</i>	-5 (at least)	04 04 – 10 04 1999
<i>Orthosia populeti</i>	-1	17 03 2020
<i>Peribatodes rhomboidaria</i>	-13	08 06 2021
<i>Polyploca ridens</i>	-1	07 04 2016
<i>Scardia boletella</i>	-17	24 06 2022

The early observations of moths in the spring of 2024 season are summarised in Table 1. As is seen from Table 1, the dates of observations of 11 species in the present study were the earliest compared to records of LepiBase (2024). The observation date of *Ligdia adustata* corresponds to the earliest recorded date of this species (LepiBase, 2024). The observation of *Agrotis exclamationis* was not the earliest, but it is still the 3rd of all earliest records of this species (LepiBase, 2024). Long-term monitoring should prove if a warmer climate impacts the species composition and phenology of the Lithuanian Lepidoptera.

The finding of *Melanargia galathea* in Salupiai, Jonava district increases the range of this species to the northeast in Lithuania (Švitra *et al.*, 2024). Records of *Peribatodes secundaria* and *Cryphia algae* in Utena district increase the range of these species to the east in Lithuania (LepiBase, 2024). *Catocala elocata*, still a very rare species in Lithuania, has been found in Šančiai, Kaunas, every consecutive year since 2022 (LepiBase, 2024).

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### ***Horisme radicularia* (De la Harpe, 1855) – nauja Lietuvos faunos rūšis ir kiti 2024 metų drugių stebėjimai**

D. BATULEVIČIUS

#### **Santrauka**

Aptikta Lietuvos faunos nauja drugių rūšis – *Horisme radicularia* (De la Harpe, 1855). Du *H. radicularia* patinai buvo sugauti 2024 05 02 Šančiuose, Kaune. Ši rūšis yra *Horisme tersata* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) antrininkė, atskiriama preparuojant genitalijas. *Horisme radicularia* yra labiau būdinga Centrinės ir Pietų Europos rūšis, tačiau pastaraisiais dešimtmečiais ji paplito Vakarų Europoje. Straipsnyje trumpai aptariamas šios drugių rūšies paplitimas, plitimo tendencija ir biologija. Taip pat pateikiami autoriaus kai kurie įdomesni Lietuvos drugių rūšių stebėjimai 2024 metais.

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