

On the Bumblebee Fauna of Turkey: III. The Subgenus *Thoracobombus* D.T. (Hymenoptera, Apidae, Bombinae)

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ABSTRACT

Thirteen species and subspecies of the subgenus *Thoracobombus* D.T. of the genus *Megabombus* D.T. are recorded in Turkey. *Megabombus humilis erzincanensis* ssp.n. is described from Erzincan and Tunceli provinces. Horizontal and altitudinal distribution, habitat and flowers visited of each taxon are given. With 2134 specimens collected *Megabombus sylvarum* (L.) with its two subspecies was the most widespread and abundant species. It was followed by *M. zonatus* (Smith) with 1700 specimens and *M. humilis* (Illiger) with 713 specimens. *M. velox* (Skorikov) was found at only three provinces in 2000-2800 m with 13 specimens. It can be classified as "endangered" species.

Key words: Bumblebees, *Thoracobombus*, *Megabombus*, Bombinae, Apidae, distribution, Turkey

INTRODUCTION

This part of the serial studies on the bumblebee fauna of Turkey comprises the subgenus *Thoracobombus* Dalla Torre in the genus *Megabombus* D.T. for which the material was collected in almost all parts of the country. In the first part (Özbek, 1979) the genera *Alpigenobombus* Skorikov, *Bombias* Robertson and *Bombus* Latreille (s. st.) and in the second part (Özbek, 1998) the genus *Pyrobombus* T.D. (s. st) had been treated.

The information relevant to material, methods and other particulars were given in Part I and II. However, it should be taken into account that collecting efforts are not the same for all parts of the country, but with the focus on eastern and northeastern Anatolia. The symbols on the distribution maps show the sampling locations, but not