

***Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794) and *Lygephila cracca* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) - Lepidoptera new for the fauna of Albania**

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ABSTRACT

In August and September of 2006 Lepidoptera belonging to 25 species from 7 families were gathered in Albania. Two species of Lepidoptera new for the fauna of that country *Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794) and *Lygephila cracca* ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) were found. Faunistic records of 23 other species of Lepidoptera are also presented.

Key words: Lepidoptera, Balkan Peninsula, Albania, faunistics, *Lygephila cracca*, *Palpita vitrealis*

INTRODUCTION

The fauna of Lepidoptera of Albania is still poorly known. Even common, widely distributed in Europe species which are known from adjoining countries are not reported there. Thus any faunistic data from Albania are very valuable. Last major contributions to the recognition of fauna of Lepidoptera of Albania was presented by Beshkov (1995), Beshkov & Misja (1995), and Beshkov *et al.* (1996). While Karsholt & Razowski (1996) reported 1628 species, at present 1721 species are recorded from that country (De Prins 2007, Karsholt & Nieuwerkerken 2007).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

During University of Łódź expedition to Albania in August and September of 2006 54 moth and butterfly specimens were gathered from four localities:

- Butrinti: N 39°43'144"; E 20°07'570"; 40 m; UTM: DJ 29; 07.09.2006; olive grove.
- Tepelene: N 40°37'488"; E 19°59'289"; 600 m; UTM: DK 19; 10.09.2006; mountain meadow.
- Voskopojë ad Korçë: N 40°38'282"; E 20°36'193"; 1300 m; UTM: DK 69; 19.09.2006; pine forest, pasture.
- Fushë-Krujë: N 41°29'453"; E 19°43'435"; 35 m; UTM: CL 99; 03.09.2008; agricultural landscape.

Butterflies were collected using hand net, moths were collected with a light trap.

RESULTS

The collection contains 25 species from 7 families. Within that short list 2 species new for Albania, *Palpita vitrealis* (Rossi, 1794) and *Lygephila cracca* ([Denis and Schiffermüller], 1775) were found.

Palpita vitrealis (Rossi, 1794) (Crambidae)

Distribution: Widespread and common in southern Europe, an uncommon migrant in northern Europe. Recorded from all west and central part of continent except Kosovo, Luxemburg, Montenegro, Northern Ireland, Serbia and Slovenia (Karsholt & Nieukerken 2007).

Material examined: Butrinti, 07.09.2006, 1 specimen, Voskopojë 19.09.2006, 1300 m, 2 specimens. Bionomy: It occurs in warm, coastal habitats. Flight period: V-X. Hostplants: *Jasminium* and *Olea* (Slamka 1997).

Lygephila cracca ([Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775) (Noctuidae)

Distribution: Locally common Euroasiatic species. Known from all Europe except northern regions, and not recorded from The European part of Turkey, Ireland, Kaliningrad Region, Slovakia and The Netherlands, doubtful in Lithuania (Goater *et al.* 2003, Fibiger, & Skule, 2007).

Material examined: Butrinti 07.09.2006, 40 m, 1 specimen. Bionomy: A xerophilous species occurring in dry and warm habitats: steppes, limestone slopes, forest-steppes. Flight period: VI-IX, it has two generations. Hostplants: *Astragalus*, *Coronilla*, *Lathyrus*, *Vicia* (Nowacki, 1998).

At the collecting sites, 23 other species of Lepidoptera were also found. These include:

Lycaenidae: *Cupido argiades* (Fushë-Krujë), *Polyommatus icarus* (Fushë-Krujë, Tepelene), **Nymphalidae:** *Coenonympha pamphilus* (Fushë-Krujë), *Lasiommata megera* (Tepelene), *Limenitis reducta* (Fushë-Krujë), **Pieridae:** *Pieris rapae* (Tepelene) **Arctiidae:** *Phragmatobia placida* (Butrinti), **Noctuidae:** *Acronicta psi* (Voskopojë), *Agrotis ipsilon* (Butrinti), *Autographa gamma* (Butrinti), *Chloantha hyperici* (Butrinti), *Grammodes bifasciata* (Butrinti), *Grammodes stolidus* (Butrinti), *Helicoverpa armigera* (Butrinti), *Leucania putrescens* (Butrinti), *Noctua janthe* (Butrinti), *Noctua pronuba* (Butrinti), *Noctua tirrenica* (Voskopojë), *Spodoptera exigua* (Butrinti, Voskopojë), *Tholera decimalis* (Voskopojë), *Xestia castanea* (Voskopojë), *Xestia c-nigrum* (Voskopojë), **Sphingidae:** *Hyles euphorbiae* (Butrinti).

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