

Short communication

NEW DATA ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *ANACRIDIDIUM AEGYPTIUM* (ORTHOPTERA: ACRIDIDAE) IN SERBIA

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The majority of papers regarding Serbian Orthoptera were published at the end of 19th and in 20th century by just a few authors: Pančić (1883), Adamović (1975), Grebenščikov (1947, 1949, 1950), Karaman (1958, 1958a, 1960, 1961, 1961a), Matvejev (1976, 1978, 1983), Ramme (1931, 1931a, 1933, 1939, 1951), Brunner von Wattenwyl (1861, 1861a, 1878, 1882), Frivaldszky (1876) and Ebner (1908, 1924) (summary in Ingrish & Willemse, 2004). However, the fauna of this group remains poorly studied, with a total of 164 species recorded for Serbia (Pavićević & Karaman, 2001), leaving many regions in the country largely understudied. In the last few years, special attention has been given to the southern parts of Serbia, which have proved to host unique and diverse insect fauna, with many species usually found only in the sub-Mediterranean and Mediterranean area (Đurđević & Đurić, 2011; Popović, Radevski, Miljević, & Đurić, 2014; Popović & Milenković, 2012). Here we describe the discovery of *Anacrididium aegyptium* (Linnaeus, 1764) in the Pčinja valley, thus confirming its presence in Serbia.

The genus *Anacrididium* Uvarov, 1923 comprises 13 species, with *A. aegyptium* as its sole representative in Europe (Eades, Otte, Cigliano, & Braun, 2014; Heller et al., 1998). It is one of the largest European grasshoppers and is considered common in the Mediterranean area, usually found near bushes and vineyards. Adult specimens are known to overwinter, the species commonly being found in warm and dry habitats. The adult's body color is brown-gray, while the nymph is usually green, yellowish or brown. *A. aegyptium* can be recognized by its characteristic eyes with vertical black and white stripes and tibiae that are greyish, the underside of the hind femora reddish.

A. aegyptium is widely distributed in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia (Eades et al., 2014) and has been recorded in neighboring Bulgaria (Popov, 2007), Republic of Macedonia (Chobanov & Mihajlova, 2010), Albania (Čejchan, 1963; Ebner, 1910), Montenegro (Nikčević, 2007), Bosnia and Hercegovina (Us, 1992),

Croatia (Rebrina, Skejo, & Tvrtković, 2015) and Slovenia (Us, 1992). The single known record of this species in Serbia was published by Us & Matvejev (1967) for the region of Vojvodina (northern Serbia). However, in the book "Favna ortopteroidnih insektov Slovenije", Us (1992) did not mention this species for Serbia when making a short overview of its distribution in Yugoslavia. Subsequently, Adamović (1975) mentioned that the species could be found in Serbia, but did not include it in fauna of Orthoptera of Serbia due to the absence of reliable data.



Figure 1. Photograph of *Anacridium aegyptium* (Linnaeus, 1764) found on a tarred road between the Macedonian border and Prohor Pčinjski Monastery on May 22, 2014.

The first confirmed record of *A. aegyptium* came as a result of studies of the insect fauna in the Pčinja valley in southern Serbia on May 22, 2014. On this occasion, a single female specimen was observed (Fig. 1) on a tarred road between Prohor Pčinjski Monastery and the state border with Macedonia (42.323358° N, 21.893435° E, 440 m). As the specimen was found on a road, we are not sure of the exact location and quality of its habitats, but presume that suitable areas can be found on the grasslands and rocky pastures above the original observation site. Further studies of *A. aegyptium* ecology and distribution in Serbia and more detailed surveys of Orthoptera fauna in the very south of the country would certainly yield interesting results in the future.

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НОВИ ПОДАЦИ О ПРИСУСТВУ *ANACRIDIDIUM AEGYPTIUM* (ORTHOPTERA: ACRIDIDAE) У СРБИЈИ

СЛОБОДАН ИВКОВИЋ, АЦА ЂУРЂЕВИЋ И МИЛОШ ПОПОВИЋ

Извод

Иако је фауна Orthoptera Србије детаљно проучавана током 19. и 20. века, укупан број врста и њихова дистрибуција још увек није довољно позната. Посебно је занимљиво подручје јужне Србије због могућег присуства таксона медитеранског и субмедитеранског распрострањења. Овде је приказан налаз врсте *Anacridium aegyptium* (Linnaeus, 1764) на асфалтном путу за Македонију. Иако се она помиње за територију Србије, сви досадашњи налази су остали непотврђени. Како је јединка посматрана изван станишта, потребно је детаљније проучити њену дистрибуцију и екологију и посветити већу пажњу фауни правокрилаца јужне Србије.

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