

On distribution area of *Asovia maeoticaria* (Alphéraky, 1876) (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Geometridae)

MILAN DJURIĆ, BOŽENKA HRIC

HabiProt, 106/34 Bulevar Oslobođenja, 11000 Beograd, Serbia, habiprot@ikomline.net

Abstract. Species *Asovia maeoticaria* (Alphéraky, 1876) was described from southeast Ukraine and subsequently recorded in Bulgaria, Greece, European part of Russia, parts of Turkey and southeast Romania. That led to the conclusion it has Ponto-Mediterranean distribution. Authors discovered the species on 7 June 2013 in the village of Kamenica, SE Serbia, making that conclusion doubtful since the location is distant from any seashore.

Key words: *Asovia maeoticara*, Geometridae, distribution, southeast Serbia.

Introduction

Data on infrequently recorded species are rare and make insufficient foundation for exact conclusions. In the case of *Asovia maeoticaria* so far assumptions were made it has Turanian or Ponto-Mediterranean distribution, because all the records came from Turkey or vicinity of the Black Sea (Stanescu, 1994) and from Greece (Karsholt & Nieukerken, 2011). In Bulgaria, however this species is well present even in the western part of the country, close to the border to Serbia – Vidin, Montana, Vratsa, Kostinbrod and Dragoman surroundings in limestone areas up to 975m alt. in several generations from beginning of April to the end of August (S. Beshkov, pers. comm.).

Serbia is a landlocked country, far away from seas. Family Geometridae is moderately studied, and the only available check-list has 400 species in it (Hric & Djurić, 2013). The discovery of *Asovia maeoticaria* will make that number 401, and that certainly is not final figure. NGO HabiProt maintains a database on insects of Serbia, and that database currently has 1827 moth species in it, for some moth families were not sufficiently studied.

Discussion

A single specimen of *Asovia maeoticaria* was noticed and photographed in the village of Kamenica, being attracted by the light. The species has a very characteristic pattern on its wings, so no further check was required.

Village of Kamenica (0653838E, 4777501N) is situated on the slopes of western Stara Planina at an altitude of 806 meters. Presence of certain termophile species was recorded, but in no way can be described as having Mediterranean climate. That's why this new record comes as a surprise and invites for further studies of distribution of *Asovia maeoticaria*.



Fig. 1. *Asovia maeoticaria* photographed in Kamenica on 7 June 2013 (photo: M. Djurić).

References

- Hric, B. & Djurić, M. (2013) HabiProt: Noćni leptiri Srbije/Moths of Serbia. Available at: http://www.habiprot.org.rs/Moths/Moths_of_Serbia.html (Accessed on 11 November 2013).
- Karsholt, O. & Nieukerken, van E. (2011) Fauna Europaea: Geometridae. In: Karsholt, O. & Nieukerken, van E. (Eds.), Fauna Europaea: Lepidoptera. Fauna Europaea version 2.4. Available at: <http://www.faunaeur.org> (Accessed on 11 November 2013).
- Stanescu, M. (1994) New data concerning the distribution of the species *Asovia maeoticaria* Alphéracky, 1876 (Lepidoptera: Geometridae) in Romania. *Trav. Mus. Hist. nat, "Grigore Antipa"*, vol. XXXIV: 117-124.