

***Scythris sinensis* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875), a new species for Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)**

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Abstract. *Scythris sinensis* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875) is reported for the first time from Bulgaria. The species has never been recorded from the Balkan Peninsula and the present locality is one of the few southern points in its range in Europe.

Key words: faunistics, Microlepidoptera, new record.

Introduction

Similarly to many Microlepidoptera families, the fauna of the family Scythrididae is poorly known in Bulgaria. According to the Fauna Europaea web site (Bengtsson 2013), 33 species are listed for this country and 201 for Europe. Many species have been recorded from neighbouring countries, but not from Bulgaria, therefore many new species awaiting discovery may be expected. One of them is *Scythris sinensis* (Felder & Rogenhofer, 1875), recently photographed in the most north-western corner of Bulgaria, near Vidin. This part of the country is rarely explored by entomologists, both amateur and professional.

Material and Methods

A single moth was observed and photographed by the first author in a private yard in Vinarovo Village, Vidin Province, 44.0988° N, 22.8127° E, 147 m a.s.l., on 20 July 2019, with Canon EOS 1200D digital camera. No specimen was preserved.

Results and Discussion

The present record is the first known from Bulgaria and the Balkans as well. The moth was easily recognised by its characteristic habitus with basal and terminal yellow spots on the forewings (Fig. 1A). The yellow wing markings are characteristic for the second generation and absent in the first one, i.e. the observed specimen apparently belongs to the second generation (Takács & Szabóky 2009, Malkiewicz & Dobrzański 2011). Another species of the same genus, *S. flabella* (Mann, 1861), is somewhat similar to *S. sinensis* and also occurs in Bulgaria (Fig. 1B). It is distinguished by more basally displaced terminal yellow spots on the forewings.

Scythris sinensis is known from central Europe since 1970's (Sattler 1971) and then spread its range to many European countries. Now it is known from Eurasia and North America as well: Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Russia (north-western and central part of the European Russia, Western

Caucasus, Middle Volga region, Southern Ural, Southern Siberia, Transbaikial, Amur Region, Southern Primorie, Sakhalin), China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan; introduced in Eastern North America (Bidzilya et al. 2017 and references therein, Fazekas 2008). Lepiforum e.V. (2019) illustrates specimens from Slovakia, Austria and Italy as well. Though widely distributed, the species appear to be very local in Europe. This contradicts the wide distribution of its larval host plant, *Chenopodium album* L., which is a common ruderal weed in Europe.



Fig. 1. Adults of *Scythris* spp. A - *S. sinensis*, Vinarovo, Vidin Province. B - *S. flabella*, Kresna Gorge, Blagoevgrad Province. Scale bar = 5 mm.

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