

First confirmed record of *Svercus palmetorum* (Krauss, 1902) in Corsica, France

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Abstract

The occurrence of the cricket *Svercus palmetorum*, suggested in several papers on the basis of acoustic clues only, is attested for the island of Corsica with the capture and recording of one male specimen in september 2010.

Zusammenfassung

Das Vorkommen der Grille *Svercus palmetorum*, in mehreren Publikationen nur aufgrund von akustischen Hinweisen erwähnt, konnte im September 2010 mit einem Belegexemplar für Korsika nachgewiesen werden.

Résumé

La présence du grillon *Svercus palmetorum*, évoquée dans plusieurs publications sur la base d'indices acoustiques uniquement, est confirmée sur l'île de Beauté (Corse, France) grâce à la capture d'un spécimen en septembre 2010.

Introduction

Svercus p. palmetorum (Krauss, 1902) has been known up to now from the northern parts of Africa, from the southwestern part of Asia and in Europe from the Iberian Peninsula, the Canary Islands, Sardinia, Sicily and Cyprus. For Corsican fauna it is listed as doubtful (HELLER 2011). The subspecies *geonomes* (OTTE & CADE 1984) is distributed in the southern parts of Africa and possibly the region around Madagascar (GOROCHOV & LLORENTE 2001). Some recently publications dealing with the orthopteran fauna of Corsica (BRAUD & SARDET 2006, BOITIER et al. 2006) suggested that *S. palmetorum* could also be present in Corsica (see also DEFAULT et al. 2009), using however only acoustic clues (Baudewijn Odé in BOITIER et al. 2006). The occurrence of this species in Corsica is now confirmed: one specimen could be collected in Corsica by the first author and its identification confirmed as *Svercus palmetorum* by the co-authors; some specimens could also be recorded (WR) and its song compared to that of *S. palmetorum* (LD, pers. obs.).

Sampling and location

On September 19, 2007, the first author has already heard several specimens of an unfamiliar kind of a cricket (without having seen it) at a reservoir near Figari (south of Corsica, called "Barrage de Talza" or "Barrage de Figari"). Three years

later, this locality was visited again and on September 14, 2010, after a long search, a male could be sighted, which escaped however. On September 19, two males were recently found, one of them could finally be taken as proof animal. The site is located in the sedimentation area at the northern end of the lake, the crickets could be found only on the basis of their stridulation, they were hidden in the root area of various plants and very difficult to catch, as it already KRAUSS (1902) mentioned in his original description. Accompanying species amongst others were: *Modicogryllus* cf. *algius* (this species is not yet confirmed for Corsica), *Pteronemobius heydenii*, *Paratettix meridionalis* and *Aiolopus thalassinus corsicus*. The site has been visited in the late afternoon, between 17 and 19 o'clock CEST. Also on September 19, 2010, the stridulation of *Svercus palmetorum* was heard in the reed zone consisting of *Juncus* behind the "Cala di Furnellu" or "Plage de Canijonu" (Monacia-d'Aullène, Southern Corsica).

Discussion

All previously known data for the distribution of *Svercus palmetorum* in Corsica are from the South of the island: Near Ghisonaccia, Etang d'Urbino, July 2005, near Bonifacio, Bella Catarina, August 2005, near Filitosa, September 2005 by F. Deroussen (all in: BOITIER et al. 2006), which is confirmed by the observations published in the present paper (near Figari, Barrage de Talza, September 2007 and 2010 and near Monacia-d'Aullène, Cala di Furnellu, September 2010). It seems that this species in Corsica prefers humid areas (except for the records near Bonifacio and Filitosa). Further investigation will clarify the biology, distribution and status of this species.

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