

**A short note on Orthoptera from the Republic of Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M):
new species for the country and new data**

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Abstract

During 2010 field trip in the south-west and north of the Republic of Macedonia, we have made some unpublished observations of Orthoptera insects, including three new species for the country.

Zusammenfassung

Erhebungen im Südwesten und Norden der Republik Mazedonien im Jahr 2010 erbrachten einige unveröffentlichte Beobachtungen von Heuschrecken, darunter drei neue Artenachweise.

Introduction

Since several years, the GEEM is working extensively on insects of the Republic of Macedonia, in cooperation with the National History Museum and a local NGO.

In 2010, I have been requested for a study mission on the Orthoptera fauna of the Mavrovo National Park. I took this opportunity to report interesting and new species to this country. The primary observation area was the National Park Mavrovo, with some short visits to the North and West of Macedonia (Fig. 1). All following data were reported during the second half of August except *Saga pedo* (June).

***Pholidoptera ebneri* RAMME, 1931 – new to Republic of Macedonia**

This species was originally described from Mali i Polisit mountain (Ramme, 1931) in the region of Elbasan in Albania. In Macedonia, I found this species on Mount Medenica in the Mavrovo National Park. The habitat was a beech forest edge, located at 1735 m altitude. This species is very similar to the widespread *Pholidoptera macedonica* Ramme, 1928, distinguished mainly by the male titillators (HARZ 1969). Two specimens have been collected.

***Tettigonia cantans* (FUESSLI, 1775) – new to Republic of Macedonia**

The species is known to all the countries bordering the Republic of Macedonia, except Albania. Two stations have been discovered in the western region, near Debar (22 August) and in the south of the Sar Planina in the Mavrovo National Park (25 August). The habitats are located along rivers in small wooded cool montane valleys, between 1250 m and 1450 m altitude. In each location, many singing males were heard, perched on scrubby vegetation.

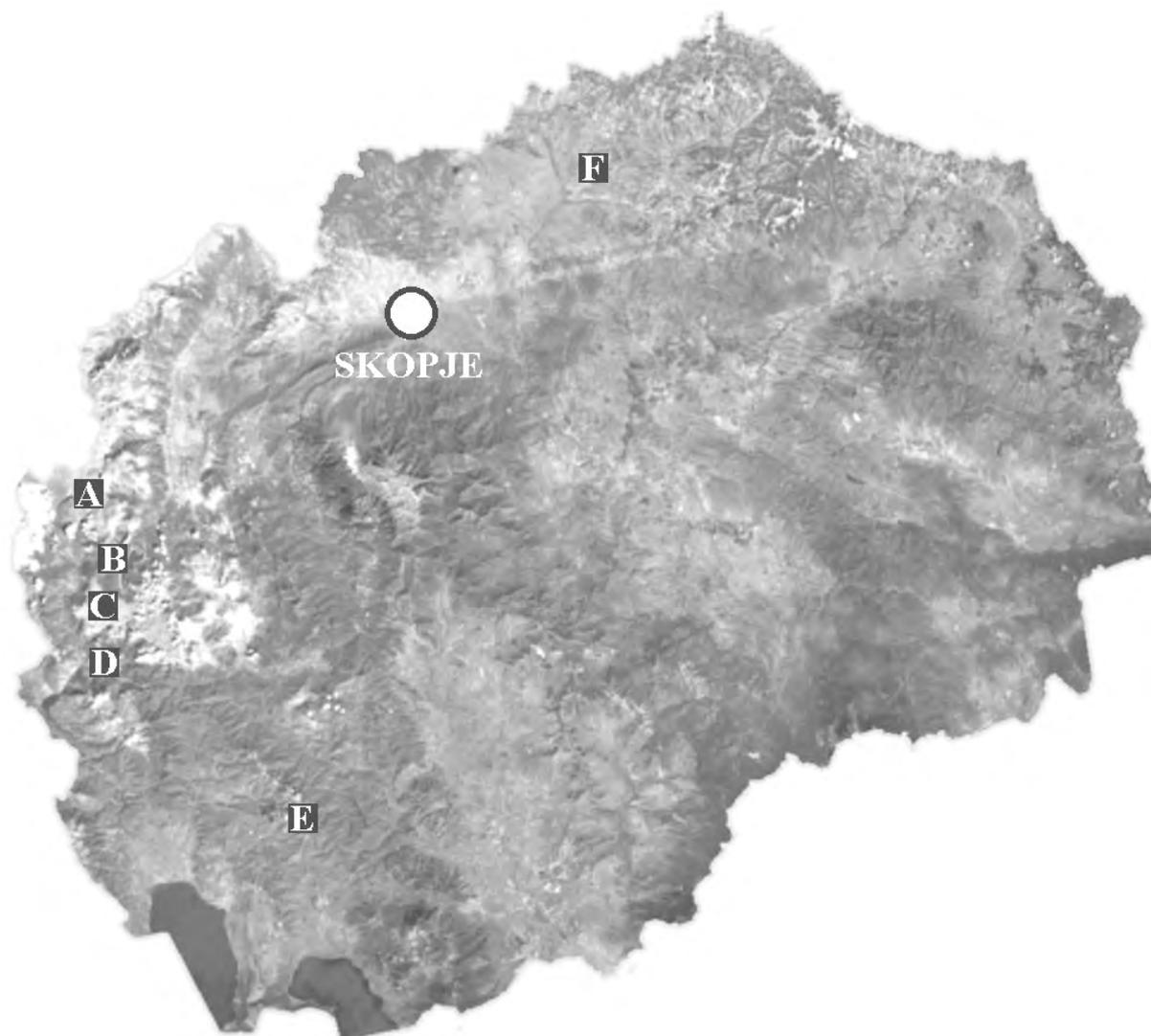


Figure 1: Map of the localities mentioned: A = South of Sar Planina ; B = Mt Korab ; C = Mt Medecina ; D = East of Debar ; E = Plakje ; F = Kanarevo.

Chrysochraon dispar (GERMAR, [1834])

This species is fairly widespread in Southeast Europe, and was even listed for the Republic of Macedonia (US & MATVEJEV 1967). However, due to the absence of precise data, it was not included in the Macedonian check list (CHOBANOV & MIHAJLOVA 2010). I collected some specimens in the south of the Sar Planina, within the Mavrovo National Park. The biotope is a high montane grassland (1567 m), with a marked Alpine feature. Less than 20 individuals were observed among a dense population of *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826). Similar habitats exists in the northwest of Republic of Macedonia, which should be searched for this species.

***Saga pedo* (PALLAS, 1771) – new data**

The only known place of *Saga pedo* in Republic of Macedonia, was on Mount Galičica between Lake Ohrid and Prespa Lakes in the southeast (LEMMONIER-DARCEMONT et al. 2008). The discovery of a new population in the north of the country, located in the south of the village Kanarevo, connect this record with the more northern records in the Balkan region (KALTENBACH 1967). The environment was a meadow steppe at 472 meters altitude, with very rich and diverse population of Orthoptera including *Poecilimon macedonicus* Ramme, 1926 *Gampsocleis abbreviata* Hermann, 1874, *Asiotmethis limbatus* (Charpentier, 1842) *Arcyptera microptera* (Fischer Waldheim, 1833).

The identification of a *Saga pedo* juvenile specimen collected on the site has been confirmed by its caryotype (performed by Anne-Marie and Bernard Dutrillaux, MNHN Paris).

***Leptophyes punctatissima* (Bosc, 1792) – new data**

Reported recently in the region of Pelister (MICEVSKI et al. 2003), I took notice of this little grasshopper in the north-east of Ohrid, near the village of Plakje in a beech clearing montane zone at 1346 meters altitude. In Republic of Macedonia, the range of this discreet species, is probably more extensive than it appears now, moreover it is also mentioned in most of neighbouring countries, except Albania.

***Odontopodisma albanica* RAMME, 1951 – new data**



Known from Albania to beyond its borders to the north-western Kosovo, south-east of Montenegro and in Crna Gora, located in north of Skopje (HARZ 1975). I discovered two large populations in more or less dense montane grasslands in the south of Sar Planina (1567 m) and in the foot of Mount Korab, near Mavrovo lake (1417 m altitude), both in the National Park Mavrovo.

Figure 2:
A mating pair of *Odontopodisma albanica* RAMME, 1951, photographed in the Mavrovo mountains, Republic of Macedonia.

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