

Checklist of Turkish Bombyliidae (Diptera), with New Records

Abdullah HASBENLI* Neal L. EVENHUIS**

* Gazi University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, 06500
Teknikokullar, Ankara, TURKEY, e-mail: hasbenli@quark.fef.gazi.edu.tr

**Department of Natural Sciences Bishop Museum, 1525 Bernice St. Honolulu,
Hawaii 96817-0916 USA, e-mail: neale@bishopmuseum.org

ABSTRACT

A revised list of Turkish bombyliid species comprising 194 taxa is compiled. *Bombylius nubilus* Mikan, 1796, *B. rhodius* Loew, 1855, and *Villoestrus uvarovi* Paramonov, 1931 are recorded from Turkey for the first time. It is estimated that approximately 50 further species may be expected to be discovered in Turkey as a result of future collection and research efforts.

Key words: Bombyliidae, checklist, Turkey, new records.

INTRODUCTION

Although the Bombyliidae of Turkey have been known for over 200 years, there has until now never been an attempt to summarize the information, or even simply to present a list of all species known to occur there. Turkish Bombyliidae are extremely interesting from a biogeographical perspective because Turkey is situated at a critical biological crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa. Additionally, most Bombyliidae help plant pollination and their larvae primarily parasitize the immature stages of holometabolous insects including Hymenoptera Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Diptera, and Neuroptera (Yeates & Greathead, 1997).

Studies on the Bombyliidae of Turkey have benefited from publications by previous authors in which much of the material presented derived from research expeditions throughout Turkey. These include papers by Bowden (1967a, 1967b),