

The Middle Eastern montane Genus *Ocnerosthenus* Massa, 1995 (Insecta Orthoptera: Pamphagidae)

Bruno MASSA

Paolo FONTANA

Università di Palermo, Dipartimento SEMFIMIZO (Entomologia, Acarologia, Zoologia), V.le delle Scienze, 13, 90128 Palermo, ITALY; e-mail: zoolappl@unipa.it
Università di Padova, Dipartimento Agronomia Ambientale e Produzioni Vegetali (Entomologia), Agripolis, Viale dell'Università 16, 35020 Legnaro (Padova) (I) ITALY; e-mail: paolo.fontana@unipd.it

ABSTRACT

The study of types and other specimens coming from the Middle East and original descriptions allowed us to propose the following conclusions. Five species belong to this genus inhabiting montane areas of Lebanon, Syria and Israel, *O. verrucosus* (Brunner, 1882), *O. brunnerianus* (Saussure, 1887), *O. simulans* (Bolivar, 1911), *O. kneuckeri* (Krauss, 1909) and *O. lividipes* (Fishelson, 1985). *O. brunnerianus* is distributed over the North-West of Syria. Distribution of *O. simulans* covers the mountains of Central-North Lebanon, *O. kneuckeri* lives on the mountains of Central-South Lebanon and *O. lividipes* on Mt. Hermon. Type locality of *O. verrucosus* is Syria and it seems impossible to locate it more precisely; characteristics of the type (female) suggest it should belong to *O. simulans*, but in the impossibility to ascertain this synonymy, we maintain its name.

Key words: Middle East, *Ocnerosthenus*, revision, key to species.

INTRODUCTION

In 1942 Uvarov described the genus *Ocneropsis*, transferring from *Prionosthenus* Bolivar, 1878 to it *P. brunnerianus* (Saussure, 1887), *P. kneuckeri* (Krauss, 1909) and *P. bethlehemita* (Bolivar, 1893); accordingly with his proposal, *P. galericulatus* (Stål, 1876) (type species of *Prionosthenus*), *P. syriacus* (Brisout, 1855), *P. verrucosus* (Brunner, 1882) and *P. simulans* Bolivar, 1911 were still belonging to the genus *Prionosthenus*. Some years later Dirsh (1950) reported the new opinion of Uvarov, who was convinced that only *P. galericulatus* belonged to the genus *Prionosthenus*, while others to the genus *Ocneropsis* or another