

Short Communication

***Eretmocera medinella* (Staudinger) (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae),
a Species New to Turkey**

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ABSTRACT

Eretmocera medinella (Staudinger, 1859) (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae) is newly recorded from eastern Anatolia (Erzurum and Iğdır Provinces), Turkey as a new species and new genus. With the present study the species in the family Scythrididae occurring in the country increased 43 in three genera. From the zoogeographical point of view, *E. medinella* has Centralasiatic-Europeo-Mediterranean chorotype.

Key words: *Eretmocera*, *Eretmocera medinella*, new records, Scythrididae, Lepidoptera, Turkey

The family Scythrididae comprises small or medium sized, teardrop-shaped moths, frequently diurnal, dark-colored, and cryptic in mode of life. The family has worldwide distribution, and most of the species live in various types of exothermic habitats (Baran, 2003).

The Scythrididae fauna of Europe is fairly well investigated (Passerin d'Entreves, 1996; Bengtsson, 1997; Baran, 2003). In the last ten years, investigations have been carried out by numerous authors and described many species, chiefly on the fauna of the Middle Asia and Far East (Sinev, 2001, Bengtsson & Liška, 1996; Nupponen *et al.*, 2000; Nupponen & Nupponen, 2001; Nupponen *et al.*, 2005; Nupponen & Ivinskis, 2008; Sachkov, 2000; Passerin d'Entreves & Roggero, 2003a; 2003b etc). Additionally, Bengtsson (2002a, 2002b) studied the Scythrididae fauna of the Arabian Peninsula and described several species.

Although the fauna of Europe is well studied and, in last decade, many studies have been conducted in Middle Asia, Far East, and Arabian Peninsula, the Scythrididae fauna of Turkey was very poorly studied. Koçak & Seven (2001) listed 42 species (one *Syringopais* Hering 1918, 41 *Scythris* Hübner [1825]) in the tentative checklist of Lepidoptera in Turkey. *Syringopais temperatella* Led. is known as wheat leaf minor (in Turkish Ekin Güvesi), an important pest, the caterpillar feeds as a miner, on the parenchyma tissues of cereal leaves, has a great significant for wheat and barley in Turkey as well as neighboring countries, such as Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Iran (Talhouk, 1969; Özbek & Hayat, 2003). It is worth indicating that after Staudinger's (1880) contribution Junnilainen (2002) described three species, *Scythris alceella* Junnilainen, *S. lagomorphella* Junnilainen and *S. tabelli* Junnilainen, on the basis of the material collected from the Central Anatolia. More recently Bengtsson

(2005) described *Scythris deprinsi* Bengtsson, *S. divergens* Bengtsson, *S. tuzensis* Bengtsson, and *S. unguisella* Bengtsson, also Nupponen (2005) described *S. hebesella* Nupponen from Turkey.

In the present study *Eretmocera medinella* (Staudinger, 1859) was recorded from Turkey (Erzurum and Iğdır provinces) for the first time as a new genus and a new species. Specimens were collected by sweeping on flowering plants for collecting various kinds of insects in the summer of 2005. Among the different insect specimens, in various orders and families, some interesting specimens of Lepidoptera were also found. Dr. B.Å. Bengtsson determined the moth specimens as *Eretmocera medinella*.

Material examined: Iğdır, Bayraktutan, 880 m, N 40°00'94.8" E 43°55'10.5", 17.08.2005, 2 males, 1 female; Karakoyunlu, 890 m, N 40°06'34.1" E 43°27'12.9" ; Erzurum, Oltu, Basakli, Karadağ, 2100 m, 31.07.2005, 1 male.

The first locality (Bayraktutan) is long term uncultivated fertile agricultural land with various flowering plants, located Aras Valley, very close to the river; the second locality (Karakoyunlu) is the border of cultivated land; the third locality is a flat meadow with small pine trees, planted about 10 years ago, scattered wide apart with very strong vegetations. Dionisio (2002) gave the host plant of the caterpillar: *Beta vulgaris* L., *Salsola vermiculata* L., *Atriplex halimus* L., *A. patula* L. (Chenopodiaceae).

Eretmocera medinella has previously been recorded from Andalusia (Spain), Sicily (Italy), Central Asia, Iran, Algeria, Libya, and Tunisia (Bengtsson, 1997; Nupponene et al. 2000); S Ural (Russia) (Nupponene et al., 2000).

With this present study and the recently described species in the family Scythrididae occurring in Turkey increased to 51 in three genera.

From the zoogeographical point of view, the present data shows that *E. medinella* has Centralasiatic-Europeo-Mediterranean chorotype.

The specimens are deposited at the Atatürk University, Entomology Museum, Erzurum, Turkey (E.M.E.T). Additionally, two specimens (one male, one female) are preserved in the collection of Sjaak Koster (Belgium).

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