

PHASIA AURIGERA (EGGER, 1860) – NEW TO THE FAUNA OF LITHUANIA (DIPTERA: TACHINIDAE)ERIKAS LUTOVINOVAS¹, GINTAUTAS STEIBLYS²¹Nature Research Centre, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania.

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Introduction

Phasia Latreille is the genus of robust tachinid flies with almost rounded, dorsally flattened abdomens, devoid of strong setae, and with a characteristic wing venation (Ziegler, 1994). This genus is one of the largest genera in the family, and subdivided into a number of species-groups, of which the *pusilla*, *barbifrons*, *hemiptera* and *subcoleoptrata* groups are known from Europe and the rest of Palaearctic (Ziegler, 1994; Sun & Marshall, 2003). The *pusilla* and *barbifrons* groups represent small black species with transparent wings, while those of the *hemiptera* and *subcoleoptrata* groups are commonly larger and distinctly dimorphic (males more bright-colored or bearing spotted wings). Alike the other related genera of the tachinid flies, last sternites in females are modified and function as rigid ovipositors (Herting, 1957); separate eggs are inserted in hosts' thoracic muscles (Dupuis, 1963). Species of this genus parasitize Heteroptera bugs, but tend to be generalists in comparison with Hymenoptera parasitoids (Draber-Mońko, 1965; Tschorsnig & Herting, 1994). Parasitism rate of the few species that are known indicate that they occur in relatively small numbers compared to their hosts, and lagging behind some other groups of the tachinid flies in affecting balance of the true bug communities (Clancy & Pierce, 1966; Farias *et al.*, 2012).

Out of fourteen species presented in the European fauna, only seven were recorded in Northern Europe. They belong to the *barbifrons*, *hemiptera*, *subcoleoptrata* and the *pusilla* groups (Bergström & Bartch, 2005; Hansen *et al.*, 2015). However, a single European species of the *barbifrons* group and two out of four species of the *hemiptera* group are considered as recent immigrants to Northern Europe (Ziegler, 2011); one of these immigrant species was still absent in our country and is now provided here in this publication.

Material and methods

The material was photographed near Raudondvaris, Kaunas district (54.941944, 023.768888). The list of Lithuanian species was compiled from Pakalniškis *et al.* (2006) and Lutovinovas (2007; 2009; 2010; 2012). The taxonomy and general distribution followed Herting & Dely-Draskovits (1993), Sun & Marshall (2003), Owieśny (2009), Zeegers (2010), Ziegler (2011) and Hansen *et al.* (2015).

Species

Phasia (Phasia) aurigera (Egger, 1860)

Raudondvaris, 10 09 2016, 1♂1♀, forest edge, on *Leucanthemum vulgare* flowers (photos G. Steiblys; Fig. 1).



Figure 1. *Phasia aurigera* (Egger, 1860) feeding on the flowering daisy

Discussion

The Lithuanian fauna is supplemented by a fourth and the last European species of the *P. hemiptera* group (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006). This moderate tachinid fly (Fig. 1) is originally distributed in the southern Palaearctic, including central France, southern Germany, southern Poland, southern Ukraine, southern and eastern China and the south of Russian Far East, and showing a disjunct range (Herting & Dely-Draskovits, 1993; Sun & Marshall, 2003). During the last decade this species has expanded its range northwards, and was also recorded in northern Poland (Owieśny, 2009), the Netherlands (Zeegers, 2010), northern Germany (Ziegler, 2011) and Denmark (Hansen *et al.*, 2015). Since the spreading tendency has already been observed in Central Europe before, it was not a big surprise to meet this species in our country, and this case is not exceptional nowadays (Ivinskis *et al.*, 2009; Mason *et al.*, 2015). However, the species is present in territories of high altitudes with lower temperatures, so its expansion is associated with reasons other than the global warming (Ziegler, 2011). This species is considered as xerophilic, commonly observed at edges of xerothermic forests (Tschorsnig & Herting,

1994). Loss of xerothermic habitats in Central Europe poses a threat to this species (Bystrowski, 2004; Ziegler, 2004).

The Lithuanian record falls amongst the northernmost known distributional points of this species at this day. This is a sixth species of the genus in Lithuania, but at least one more species is expected to be found, as *P. subcoleoptrara* (Linnaeus, 1767) is being recorded further northwards in Europe (Pohjoismäki & Kahanpää, 2014). The number of all recorded tachinid fly species in Lithuania now reached 277 (Pakalniškis *et al.*, 2006; Lutovinovas, 2007; 2009; 2010; 2012), but this number is still far from complete, and might be supplemented by more than a hundred of additional species in the future.

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***Phasia aurigera* (Egger, 1860) – nauja Lietuvos faunos rūšis (Diptera: Tachinidae)**

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Santrauka

Pateikiami duomenys apie pirmą šios rūšies stebėjimą Lietuvoje, Kauno rajone. Dygliamusės aptiktos pamiškėje, besimaitinančios nuo paprastosios baltagalvės žiedų. Tai yra viena šiauriausių šios rūšies radviečių Europoje, nes šiame regione rūšis yra rasta tiktai Danijoje, kur ji taip pat buvo neseniai pastebėta. Neabejojama, kad šios rūšies aptikimas Šiaurės Europoje yra susijęs su jos plitimu, o klimato kaita nėra laikoma jos plitimo priežastimi. Tai jau šeštoji šios dygliamusių genties rūšis Lietuvoje, tačiau dar bent viena rūšis lieka ieškotina. Šiuo metu Lietuvoje yra rastos 277 dygliamusių rūšys, bet šis skaičius yra labai nepilnas, ir ateityje turėtų pasipildyti ne mažiau kaip šimtu naujų rūšių.

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