

NEW RECORD OF *BEMBIX ROSTRATA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (HYMENOPTERA: CRABRONIDAE) IN LITHUANIA

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Introduction

Bembix rostrata (Linnaeus, 1758) is a stenotopic crabronid wasp species, which is found nesting in sandy habitats with bare soil or sparse vegetation, exposed to the sun. It is common in Northern Palearctic, from Western Europe to Russian Irkutsk region, Altai Republic and Mongolia. In the North of Europe this species is rare and found locally up to Finland, it is more abundant in Central and South Europe. It is a protected insect species in Lithuania (Budrys & Rimšaitė, 2007).

The objective of this report is to supplement new faunistic data on *Bembix rostrata* as it is essential for correct mapping of distribution of this species and for establishing appropriate conservation measures.

Material and Methods

Nesting wasps were observed by the authors in the environs of villages Auksūdis and Šlaveitai, in 2009. One dead specimen was collected in their colony and preserved in the personal collection of the first author.

List of species

Bembix rostrata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Kretinga district, 400 m E of Auksūdis (56°02'50,7"N, 21°17'36,1"E), 16 07 2009, abandoned gravel pit, a colony with up to 10 nesting individuals (Fig. 1).

Discussion

The species is included into the Lithuanian Red Data Book since 2000, under the category - 3(R) and protected by law. Only fourteen localities of this species were known before, six till 1992 and eight more after 1992 (Budrys & Rimšaitė, 2007). It is also protected in the countries at its northern distribution limit: Sweden (ArtDatabanken..., 2009), Latvia (LEB, 2009) and Estonia (Red Data Book of Estonia, 1998). The main threat is loss of suitable habitats due to afforestation of dry grasslands.

The new finding site of *Bembix rostrata* in Auksūdis village environs is located 28 km from the nearest known site in Nemirseta environ at the Baltic Sea coast. The wasp colony has settled on the edge of excavated and abandoned gravel pit. Vegetation cover was already established in the habitat as a result of natural succession and only spots,

where soil is disturbed by heavy machinery and by small-scale excavation by local people, are still suitable for *B. rostrata*. Even though the soil there is quite coarse, it is fine enough to allow nest construction. The main threat for this new site is lack of disturbance which may lead to complete cover in vegetation and loss of habitats.



Figure 1. New locality of *Bembix rostrata* in Lithuania

The soil conditions for digger wasps can be characterized as poor in the new locality and it is distant from inland dunes, coastal and riparian areas, where the species has been previously reported from. It is possible that this species may occupy unusual habitats when facing absence of sandy soils.

References

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Nauji *Bembix rostrata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hymenoptera: Crabronidae) stebėjimai Lietuvoje

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Santrauka

Pateikiami duomenys apie naują ilgažandžio bembikso (*Bembix rostrata*) radvietę Auksūdžio kaimo apylinkėse Kretingos rajone. Nurodoma stebėjimo vieta ir individų skaičius, aprašoma radvietė, taip pat aptariama šios saugomos, įtrauktos į Lietuvos raudonąją knygą, buveinė ir jos pagrindinės grėsmės.

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