

First record of *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner, [1799]) from Western Ukraine with a distributional checklist of the family in Ukrainian fauna (Lepidoptera: Choreutidae)

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Abstract

The *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner, [1799]) was discovered in Western Ukraine for the first time. The larvae of this species were found on *Ficus carica* L. in the city of Uzhhorod (Transcarpathian region). The adults were bred in laboratory conditions. Most of the life stages of *Choreutis nemorana* are illustrated. A distributional checklist of the Choreutidae family in Ukraine is provided.

Keywords: Lepidoptera, Choreutidae, Transcarpathian region, *Ficus carica*, Ukraine.

Primer registro de *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner, [1799]) en el oeste de Ucrania con una lista de distribución de la familia en la fauna ucraniana (Lepidoptera: Choreutidae)

Resumen

La especie *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner, [1799]) fue descubierta por primera vez en el oeste de Ucrania. Las larvas de esta especie se encontraron en *Ficus carica* L. en la ciudad de Uzhhorod (región de Transcarpatia). Los adultos se criaron en condiciones de laboratorio. Se ilustran la mayoría de las etapas de la vida de *Choreutis nemorana*. Se proporciona una lista de distribución de la familia Choreutidae en Ucrania.

Palabras clave: Lepidoptera, Choreutidae, región de Transcarpatia, *Ficus carica*, Ucrania.

Introduction

The family Choreutidae Stainton, 1854, is represented in Ukraine by 13 species. *Anthophila fabriciana* (Linnaeus, 1767) and *Choreutis pariana* (Clerck, 1759) are found throughout Ukraine. *Millieria dolosalis* (Heydenreich, 1851) and *Tebenna micalis* (Mann, 1857) are found in Southern Ukraine. *Anthophila abhasica* Danilevsky, 1969, *Prochoreutis pseudostellaris* Budashkin, 2003 and *Tebenna chingana* (Danilevsky, 1969) are known only from Crimea. *Tebenna bjerkandrella* (Thunberg, 1784) and *Choreutis diana* (Hübner, [1822]) are found in the Carpathians.

Until now the *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner, [1799]) was known only from southern Ukraine (Odesa region, Mykolaiv region, Kherson region and Crimea). In 2024, the larvae of this species were found on *Ficus carica* L. in Uzhhorod city (Transcarpathian region). Due to the wide distribution of this species in Europe, the most likely route of entry was from Slovakia or Hungary (GBIF 2025).

Material and Methods

The material for this research was obtained by the second author in a garden in Uzhhorod, Transcarpathian region. The larvae were collected from the leaves of *Ficus carica* L. in late August. They were kept under laboratory conditions in cages containing the same fig branches until pupation. The imago specimens are stored in the private research collection of V. Yepishin. Preimaginal stages, imagoes and pinned specimens were photographed with a Canon EOS 600D digital camera equipped with a Canon macro lens EF-S 60 mm and macro rings.

Results

Choreutis nemorana (Hübner, [1799]) (Figures 1-13)

Tortrix nemorana Hübner, [1799]. *Samml. eur. Schmett.*, [7], pl. 1, fig. 3

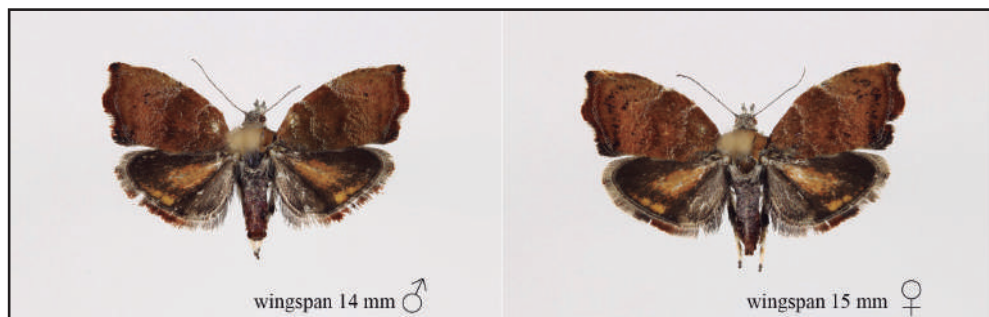
Type locality: [EUROPE]

Asopia incisalis Treitschke, 1829, in Ochseneheimer. *Schmett. Eur.*, 7, 157-159

Type locality: AUSTRIA

Material examined: UKRAINE, Transcarpathian (Zakarpattia) Region, Uzhhorod City, ex larvae on *Ficus carica*, 9 ♂, 6 ♀, 26-VIII-2024, leg. R. Mishustin.

Figure 1. Male and female of *Choreutis nemorana*.



Distribution: Europe except for North, Tunisia, Turkey, the Caucasus, Iraq, Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, China (Amsel, 1955; Danilevsky & Kuznetsov, 1973; Diakonoff, 1986; Seven, 1991; Zouba, 2010; De Prins et al. 2014).

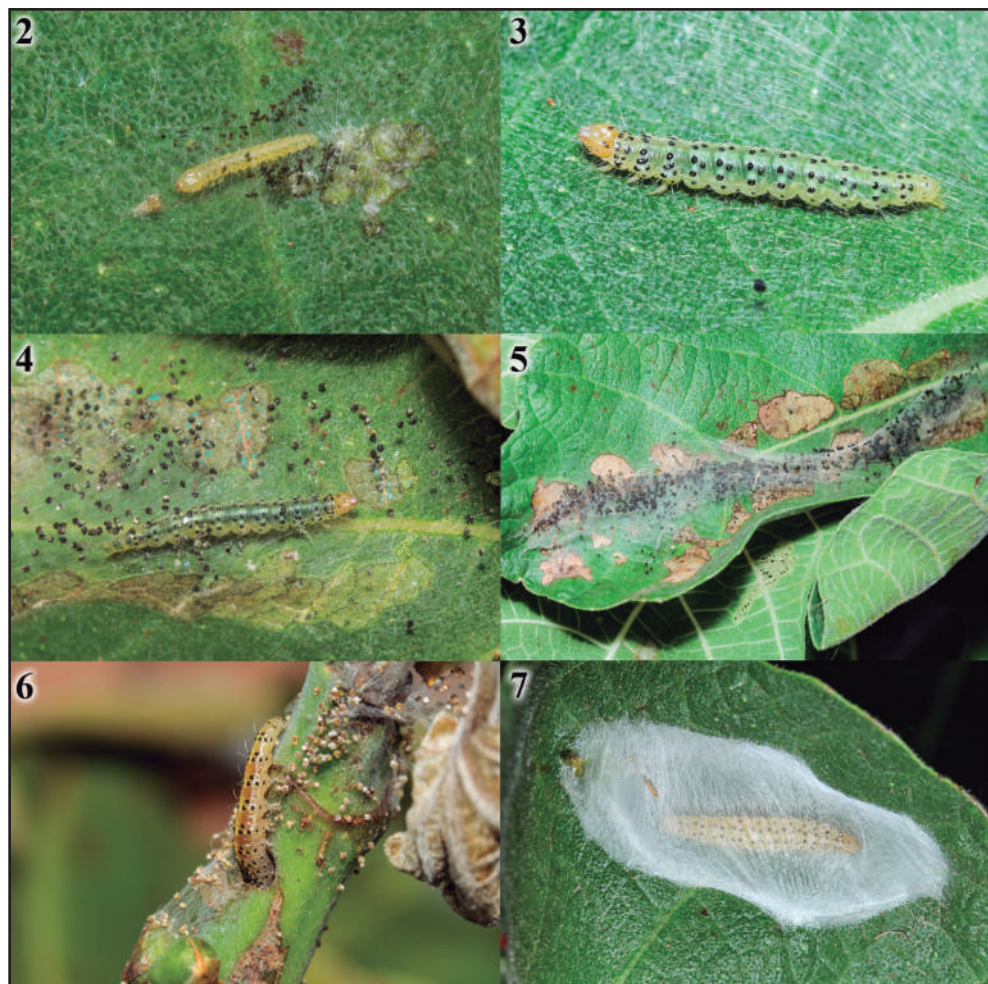
Biology: Larvae of various ages, from very young (second instar) to those ready to pupate (i.e., last instar) (Figures 2-3), were observed on fig leaves in the city of Uzhhorod on August 26, 2024. The larvae developed on cut fig branches placed in water under laboratory conditions at a temperature of 24-25°C. The larvae live on the upper side of the leaves under a not very dense silk with impurities of its excrement, the silk forms a “shelter” (Figure 4), where the larva quickly hides in case of danger. Caterpillars feed on leaves, skeletonizing them (Figure 5). Sometimes caterpillars can damage stems (Figure 6), obviously in the absence of other, more suitable parts of the food plant (leaves, fruits). The first larvae began to pupate on August 28 and the last completed pupation on September 8. The cocoon (Figure 7) is built on the upper side of the leaves or in other places, but not where the silk shelter was built and in a new place. The cocoon consists exclusively of silk, is very dense and 3-layered (Figure 8). Adults emerge after 12-16 days. They emerge from the cocoon a few hours after dawn (9-12 a.m. local time). Imagoes spread their wings and are very quickly able to fly (Figures 12-13). Even while spreading their wings, imagoes can move very quickly in jumping movements in case of danger.

Distributional checklist of the Choreutidae Stainton, 1854, in Ukraine

The reports signed as “[?]” are discussed in the “Remarks” section for the corresponding species. To

avoid multiplying the number of similar links, the reports from online citizen science databases include the numbers of specific observations. By substituting these numbers at the end of the corresponding link, you can go to the page of the respective observation. For UkrBIN database the link is https://ukrbn.com/show_image.php?imageid=178622 and for iNaturalist - <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/190523953> (both links already include observation numbers).

Figures 2-7. Larval stages of *Choreutis nemorana*. **2.** Second instar larva. **3.** The fully grown larva. **4.** The caterpillar in a silk “shelter”. **5.** Leaf damage. **6.** Stem damage. **7.** Building a cocoon (the first, outer layer is ready).



Choreutidae Stainton, 1854
Millieriinae Heppner, 1982
Millieria Ragonot, 1874

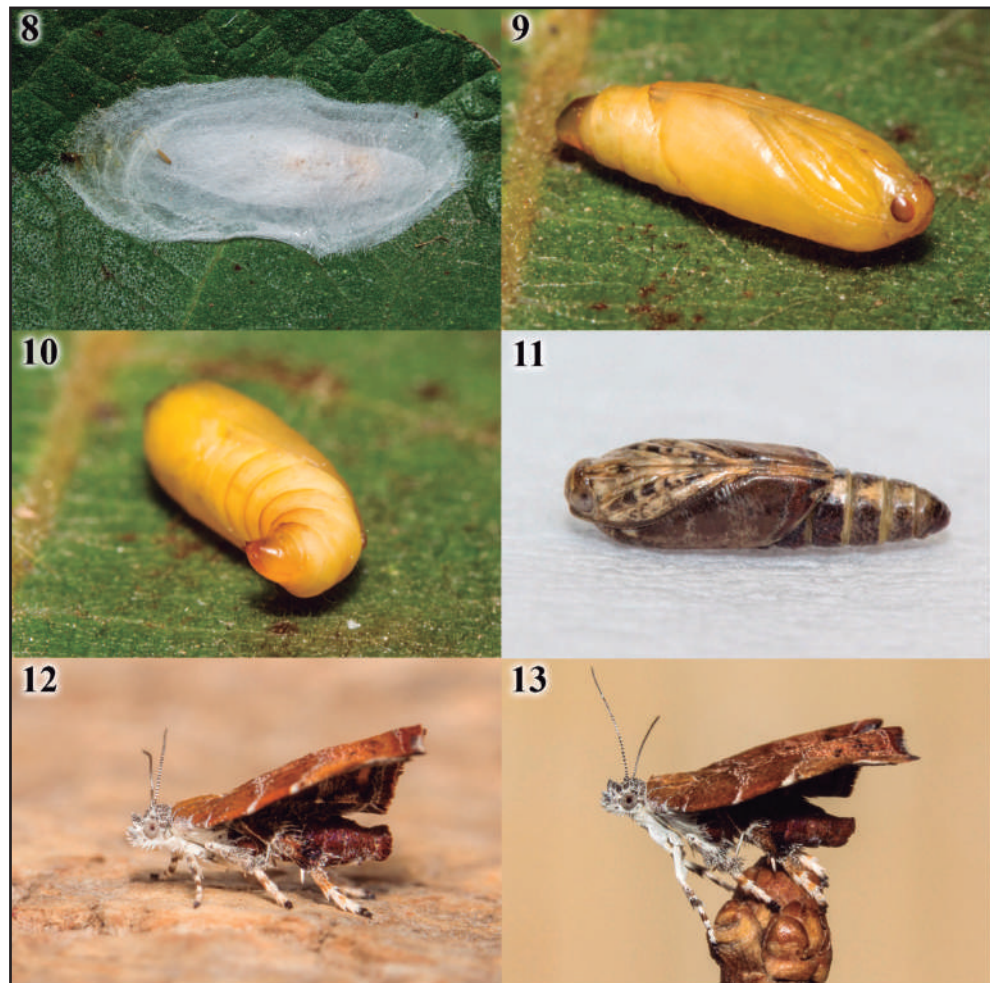
Millieria dolosalis (Heydenreich, 1851)

Kyiv reg., O. Bidzilya, ex larvae on *Aristolochia clematitis* L. (pers. comm.). Cherkasy reg. [?], UkrBIN (2025) (# 255709). Poltava reg. [?], UkrBIN (2025) (# 354550). Odesa reg., UkrBIN (2025) (# 152854). Za-

porizhzhia and Donetsk regs (Kamiani Mohyly Reserve), Bidzilya et al. (2001, p. 81) (*Milliereia*). Luhansk reg.: Demyanenko et al. (2021, p. 36). Crimea, Savchuk & Kajgorodova (2020, p. 260); Savchuk 2025.

Remark: The observations from Cherkasy and Poltava regions are represented only by traces of vital activity on the host plant *Aristolochia clematitis* Linnaeus, 1753. Therefore, there is no certainty that these traces relate specifically to *Millieria dolosalis*.

Figures 8-13. Pupae and imagoes of *Choreutis nemorana*. **8.** Cocoon. **9.** Pupa shortly after pupating. **10.** Cremaster of pupa. **11.** Pupa shortly before imago emerges. **12.** Emerged male. **13.** Emerged female.



Choreutinae Stainton, 1854

Anthophila Haworth, 1811

Anthophila abhasica Danilevsky, 1969

Ivano-Frankivsk reg., Diakonoff (1986, p. 90, pl. 2, fig. 18). Crimea, Budashkin (2003, p. 44); Savchuk (2025).

Anthophila fabriciana (Linnaeus, 1767)

Rivne reg., iNaturalist (2025) (## 190523953; 167579124; 186869695; 165688433). Zhytomyr reg., Ljubomudrov (1917, p. 41) (*Simaethis*); UkrBIN (2025) (# 255346). Kyiv reg., Zhikharev (1928, p. 257) (*Choreutis*); Budashkin (2003, p. 44); iNaturalist (2025) (## 109999049; 121067330; 167183313; 253996093). Chernihiv reg., iNaturalist (2025) (# 238999067). Lviv reg., Brunicki (1913, p. 63) (*Simaethis*); Schille (1930, p. 152) (*Simaethis*); Andrianov (2025); iNaturalist (2025) (## 121969529; 190046422; 121729606; 120125108). Lviv and Transcarpathian regs (the Mount Pikui), Nowicki (1860, pp. 117-118) (*alternalis* Tr.). Ternopil reg., Toll (1939, p. 164) (*Simaethis*). Vinnytsia reg., UkrBIN (2025) (# 204671). Cherkasy reg., iNaturalist (2025) (## 119923638; 130445528; 132291296; 181037484). Poltava reg., UkrBIN (2025) (# 237789). Transcarpathian reg., Danilevsky (1969, p. 927); UkrBIN (2025) (# 178622). Ivano-Frankivsk reg., Danilevsky (1969, p. 927); Bidzilya et al. (2006, p. 28); iNaturalist (2025) (# 85887477). Chernivtsi reg., Hormuzaki (1907, p. 78) (*Simaethis*). Crimea, Danilevsky (1969, p. 927); Budashkin (2003, p. 44); Savchuk (2025).

Prochoreutis Diakonoff & Heppner, 1980

Prochoreutis myllerana (Fabricius, 1794)

Zhytomyr reg., Ksenzhopolskiy (1915, p. 11) (*Choreutis*). Kyiv reg., Zhikharev (1928, p. 256) (*Choreutis*). Lviv reg., Nowicki (1860, p. 118) (*Choreutis scintilulalis* Tr.). Ternopil reg., Świątkiewicz (1926, p. 130) (*Choreutis*); Toll (1939, p. 164) (*Choreutis*). Cherkasy reg., Diakonoff (1986, p. 109); UkrBIN (2025) (# 353272). (Kharkiv reg., Karolinskiy et al. (2017, p. 9). Kherson reg., Diakonoff (1986, p. 130) (*stellaris* [misidentification, see “Remark” to *Prochoreutis stellaris*]); Budashkin (2003, p. 48).

Prochoreutis sehestediana (Fabricius, [1777])

Ivano-Frankivsk reg., Diakonoff (1986, p. 112). Crimea: Budashkin (2003, p. 49).

Prochoreutis stellaris (Zeller, 1847)

Kharkiv reg., Karolinskiy et al. (2021, p. 58). Crimea, Budashkin (2003, p. 54).

Remark: The report of *P. stellaris* from Kherson region (“Kakhovka”) in Diakonoff (1986, p. 130) should be attributed to *P. myllerana* due to misidentification, as pointed out by Budashkin (2003, p. 48).

Prochoreutis pseudostellaris Budashkin, 2003

Crimea: Budashkin (2003, p. 54); Savchuk (2025).

Tebenna Billberg, 1820

Tebenna bjerkandrella (Thunberg, 1784)

Ivano-Frankivsk reg., Świątkiewicz (1926, p. 131) (*Choreutis*); Schille (1930, p. 151) (*Choreutis*); Bidzilya et al. (2006, p. 28) [the report is in question]. Chernivtsi reg.: iNaturalist (2025) (## 224293420; 225406282).

Tebenna micalis (Mann, 1857)

Odesa reg.: UkrBIN (2025) (## 94624; 94633). Kherson reg., Budashkin (2003, p. 48). Zaporizhzhia reg., Budashkin (2003, p. 48). Crimea, Budashkin (2003, p. 48, 2004, p. 342); Savchuk & Kajgorodova (2015, p. 178); iNaturalist (2025) (# 145700161); Savchuk 2025.

Tebenna chingana (Danilevsky, 1969)

Crimea: Budashkin (1997, p. 15, 2003, p. 48, 2004, p. 342); Savchuk (2025).

Choreutis Hübner, [1825]

Choreutis diana (Hübner, [1822])

“Polissia”, Kostjuk & Gershenson (1988, pp. 262-263). Ivano-Frankivsk reg., Swiatkiewicz (1924, p. 98) (*Simaethis*). Chernivtsi reg., Hormuzaki (1907, p. 78) (*Lutschina*)

Choreutis pariana (Clerck, 1759)

Volyn reg., Zdun (1961, p. 49) (*Anthophila*). Rivne reg., UkrBIN (2025) (# 304848). Zhytomyr reg., Ksenzhopolskiy (1915, p. 11) (*Simaethis*); iNaturalist (2025) (# 137946040). Kyiv reg., Ljubomudrov (1917, p. 41) (*Simaethis*); Zhikharev (1928, p. 256) (*Simaethis*); Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*); Danilevsky & Kuznetzov (1973, p. 15) (*Hemerophila*); UkrBIN (2025) (# 96728). Chernihiv reg., Shreiner (1906, p. 26) cit. after Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*) [?]; iNaturalist (2025) (# 232706029). Lviv reg., Nowicki (1860, p. 117) (*parialis* Tr.); Brunicki (1913, p. 63) (*Simaethis*); Swiatkiewicz (1924, p. 98) (*Simaethis*); Bublyk (1959, p. 153) (*Simaethis*); iNaturalist (2025) (# 248903673). Ternopil reg., Toll (1939, p. 164) (*Simaethis*). iNaturalist (2025) (# 302842725). “Podillia”, Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*) [?]. Khmelnytskyi reg., Chranewytsch (1927, pp. 11-13) (*Simaethis*). Vinnytsia reg., iNaturalist (2025) (# 98269291). Cherkasy reg., Grossheim & Pjatakova (1928, p. 18) (*Hemerophila*). Poltava reg., Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*); Danilevsky & Kuznetzov (1973, p. 15) (*Hemerophila*). Kharkiv reg., Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*) [?]. Transcarpathian reg., Fasulati & Sikura (1956, p. 74) (*Simaethis*); UkrBIN (2025) (## 251451; 178664; 161974). Transcarpathian and Ivano-Frankivsk regs (the Mount Hoverla), Budashkin (2003, p. 45). Ivano-Frankivsk reg., iNaturalist (2025) (# 243298066). Chernivtsi reg., Hormuzaki (1907, p. 78) (*Simaethis*). Dnipropetrovsk reg., Alberti & Soffner (1962, p. 195) (*Simaethis*); Apostolov (1981, p. 43) (*Simaethis*); iNaturalist (2025) (# 183241624). Odesa reg., Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*) [?]. Zaporizhzhia reg., Budashkin (2003, p. 45). Donetsk reg., Sovinskij (1938, p. 83) (*Simaethis*). Crimea, Porchinskiy (1885) cit. after Chranewytsch (1927, p. 11); Chranewytsch (1927, p. 11) (*Simaethis*); Danilevsky & Kuznetzov (1973, p. 15) (*Hemerophila*); Budashkin (2003, p. 45).

Remark: The reports from Chernihiv, Kharkiv and Odesa regions in Sovinskij (1938) in question because the author does not provide exact localities. Since the publication of the paper, the borders of the regions have changed and now it is impossible to accurately determine the affiliation of these reports to the modern administrative division of Ukraine.

Choreutis nemorana (Hübner, [1799])

Transcarpathian reg., **first record**. Odesa reg., iNaturalist (2025) (## 100221687; 170461216; 229117124). Mykolaiv reg., iNaturalist (2025) (# 303674737). Kherson reg., iNaturalist (2025) (# 216525171). Crimea, Danilevsky & Kuznetzov (1973, p. 11) (*Hemerophila*); Budashkin (2004, p. 342); iNaturalist (2025) (## 27680649; 38543652; 49170916; 53264117; 55803296; 85743445; 86436180; 103034345; 103379805; 125901809; 131604602; 180920426; 184101231; 194578381; 195750209; 195753128); Savchuk (2025).

Remark: While this manuscript was under review, a new observation from a novel locality in the Transcarpathian region was added to the iNaturalist website (Tiachiv city, # 292930911).

Conclusions

Thereby, 13 species of the family Choreutidae are present in the fauna of Ukraine. The novel record from the Transcarpathian region complements existing information about the distribution of *Choreutis nemorana* in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Dr Oleksiy Bidzilya (Institute for Evolutionary Ecology, Kyiv) for providing additional information on the Choreutidae of Ukraine and for assisting in the search for literature sources. We express our sincere gratitude to the reviewers for their meticulous review and valuable suggestions, and to the

Dr Antonio Vives for translating the abstract into Spanish. We also thank all users of citizen science platforms whose data we used: Aleksandr Potuzhnyy, Aleksandr Tishchenko, Aleksey Romanov & Elizaveta Romanova, Aleksey Venger, Alexey Yabs, Bogdan Pogadaev, Christophe Szpajdel, Denis Davydov, Ekaterina Kormina, Eugene Karolinskiy, Evgeniy Davydenko, Ezhen D. user “eugen_dessemet” on iNaturalist, Ihor Zmijevskyy, Ilya Kasatov, Kateryna Kalashnik, Kirill Vatsenko, Konovalov user “aniki_tori” on iNaturalist, Lada Mazur, Liubov Ilminska, Maksim Shumskikh, Maksym Gavrilyuk, Mark Yakimoto user “mark_yakimoto” on iNaturalist, Miriam Sokhet, Mykola Borysenko, Nadiia Prorochok, Natali Kapystjan user “vladislav_kapystjan” on iNaturalist, Nataliia Netylko, Nikita Galushchenko, Nikita Mirosnichenko, Oksana Bodnar, Olexandr Ghryb, Roman Tsynda, Ruslan Nerush, Sergey Ledenkov, Sergey Novitskiy, Tatyana Sokolova-Yudina, Valeria Drahomyryk, Vasyl Hleba, Veronika Krasnobaeva, Viktor Finchuk, Vyatcheslav Voropayev, Yaroslav Ivanovych, Zoja Berest, users “dinasafina”, “jaroslawkas”, “lenatara”, “vadim66”, “viktoria” and “vlad50” on iNaturalist, as well as user “Станислава По” on UkrBIN. This study was supported by the Ukrainian State Budget Program “Support for the Development of Priority Areas of Scientific Research” (Code: 6541230) (allocated to V. Yepishin).

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare there is have no known financial interest or personal relationship that could have influenced the work presented in this article.

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(Recibido para publicación / *Received for publication* 6-III-2025)

(Revisado y aceptado / *Revised and accepted* 4-VIII-2025)

(Publicado / *Published* 30-VI-2026)

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