

Scythris camelella Walshingham, 1907 recorded in Spain as new species for Europe (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)

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Abstract

The first record of *Scythris camelella* Walshingham, 1907 in Spain and Europe is presented. One male was recorded on the sand habitats near Santa Pola (Alicante) in Spain.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Scythrididae, *Scythris camelella*, faunistics, new record, Spain.

Scythris camelella Walshingham, 1907 registrado en España como una nueva especie para Europa (Lepidoptera: Scythrididae)

Resumen

Se presenta el primer registro de *Scythris camelella* Walshingham, 1907 en España y Europa. Un ejemplar macho fue colectado en hábitat arenosos cerca de Santa Pola (Alicante), España.

PALABRAS CLAVES: Lepidoptera, Scythrididae, *Scythris camelella*, faunística, nuevo registro, España.

Introduction

Scythridid fauna of Spain is very well known. The last checklist of Scythrididae of Spanish mainland was made by VIVES MORENO (2014), and it comprises 91 species in total. After this publication, *Scythris spiniferella* Nupponen & Savenkov, 2019 and *Enolmis delnoidella* Groenen & Schreurs, 2016 were described on the basis of Spanish material (GROENEN & SCHREURS, 2016; NUPPONEN & SAVENKOV, 2019).

Scythris camelella Walshingham, 1907 was recorded on the wet habitats northern of Santa Pola (Spain) during the joint trip of the second author and Marek Dvořák - collector of the present record. Only one male was attracted to ultraviolet light which was installed in the salt marshes with sparse vegetation, but with reeds in the close surroundings (Fig. 3). This locality is a part of great territory where wetlands and salt marshes belong to the common habitats. The well-preserved habitats south of Santa Pola are protected, e.g. El Parque Natural de las Lagunas de La Mata and Torrevieja, but the locality on which *S. camelella* was recorded has been always without territorial protection. This is why this locality practically does not exist in the present due the quick development in this densely populated area.

Material examined

Scythris camelella Walshingham, 1907 (Figs 1-2): SPAIN, Alicante, Santa Pola, 1 km south of Balsares, 50 m a.s.l., 1 ♂, 12-VI-2007 (gen. prep. 29390 Ig. Richter), M. Dvořák leg. (coll. Ig. Richter).

Discussion

Scythris camelella was described on the basis of five males collected in Biskra in Algeria (WALSINGHAM, 1907). It is widely distributed in the Palaearctic and Afrotropical regions, namely it was recorded in Egypt, Iran, Sudan, Tunisia (BENGTSSON, 1997), Jordan (NUPPONEN, 2005), Afghanistan, Jordan, Pakistan, Syria, South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Yemen (NUPPONEN, 2018). The present record is the first one for Spain and for whole Europe.

The biology was not hitherto described despite one specimen from the type series was bred from a cocoon (WALSINGHAM, 1907). The type specimens were collected in April (WALSINGHAM, 1907), but the moths are active also in late autumn (BENGTSSON, 1997). With regard to the date of the present record (June), it probably occurs in more broods from April to October. According to BENGTSSON (1997) *S. camelella* belongs to *camelella* species-group.

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