

A NEW RECORD FOR FLOWER FLIES FAUNA OF TURKEY *MYOLEPTA VARA* (PANZER, 1798) (DIPTERA: SYRPHIDAE)

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[Sarıbiyık, S. 2011. A new record for flower flies fauna of Turkey, *Myolepta vara* (Panzer, 1798) (Diptera: Syrphidae). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 6 (1): 446-448]

ABSTRACT: *Myolepta vara* (Panzer), 1798, is recorded for the first time from Bolu and Turkey. One specimen was collected from Abant Lake Natural Park of Bolu, Turkey.

KEY WORDS: Syrphidae, new record, fauna, Bolu.

Myolepta Newman, 1838 is a small genus of hoverflies with representatives in the Palaearctic, Nearctic, Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions. For the Palaearctic region 10 species of *Myolepta* are listed by Peck (1988), but there has remained confusion about the status and identity of some of these species. Besides, the differences between some species have been inadequately described in most literature (Reemer et al., 2004).

Peck (1988) lists seven European species of *Myolepta*. In the revision of Reemer et al. (2004) one of them, *M. helvetica* (Wainwright) is shown to be a synonym of *M. vara*. In the same publication *M. trojana* is described from south-western parts of Turkey (Speight, 2008).

Adults of *Myolepta* usually occur in mature deciduous or evergreen forests where suitable habits for the larvae (i.e. rotten and dead wood) are easily accessible. The only comprehensive review of the genus in the palaearctic region was out of date and included only four species from which *M. ruficornis* Zetterstedt, 1843 belongs to the genus *Lejota* Rondani, 1857. Reemer et al. (2004) revised the genus in the western part of the palaearctic region and described three new species namely *M. carthaginiensis*, *M. mada* and *M. trojana*. They also synonymised two species and designated a neotype for *M. potens* (Babak and Reemer, 2008).

The first record of *Myolepta vara* from Turkey is based on specimen which was collected from Bolu province (1♀ west of Bolu city, Abant Gölü Tabiat Parkı (Abant Lake Natural Park)).

Biology: *Myolepta vara* occurs in deciduous forests (*Quercus*) with over-mature trees, including alluvial hardwood forest and oak-hornbeam (*Quercus/Carpinus*) forest. The adults feed on flowers of various shrubs and trees. They have been observed sitting in patches of sunlight on shady, low places like bare ground, cow pats, tree trunks, leaves and even on asphalt. This behaviour, in combination with its cryptic colours probably contributes to the elusive reputation of the species. The larva has been found in decaying organic matter at the bottom of a small cavity in a recently felled *Quercus* trunk. The pupal stage of a reared specimen lasted for 18 days. Flight period found from April 15th until June 23rd. The species is univoltine (Reemer et al., 2004).

Until now, four species of the genus *Myolepta* have been recorded from Turkey, by Turkish and foreign researchers. *Myolepta dubia*, *M. nigratarsis*, *M. potens*, *M. trojana* (Özgür, 1987; Sarıbiyık, 1999, 2001, 2003a,b,c,d, Reemer et al., 2005; Speight, 2008).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

This specimen was collected from white flowered Umbelliferae found near the small water flows in the *Fagus* sp. (Fagaceae) *Abies* sp. and *Pinus* sp. (Pinaceae) forests in Abant Lake Natural Park of Bolu by the author (Leg. S. Sarıbıyık). The collected specimen was prepared and labelled following standart protocols for museum material. The following works were used for species identification: Sack, (1932), Bańkowska (1963) and Reemer et al. (2004).

The specimen is preserved in the private collection of the author. Two photos belonging to the specimen are given (Figs.1, 2).

RESULTS

Myolepta vara (Panzer, 1798)

Material examined: 1 ♀, Bolu, Abant Lake Natural Park (Abant Gölü Tabiat Parkı), 1120 m., 19.VII.1995.

Flower visited: white flowered Umbelliferae.

Range: the Netherlands south through Belgium (extinct?) and France south to the Mediterranean and central Spain; through central and South Europe to Switzerland, Austria and Roumania and on to the Balkans and the Caucasus (Azerbaijan), also, supposedly, from the Pacific coastal region of Asiatic Russia. This species appears to be scarce over most of its European range (Speight, 2008).

This is a new record for the Turkish fauna.

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Figure 1. *Myolepta vara*; female adult at dorsal view.



Figure 2. *Myolepta vara*; female adult at lateral view.