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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE ICHNEUMONIDAE
OF THE MALTESE ISLANDS

(Hymenoptera)

Introduction

The Ichneumonidae of the Maltese Islands have not been previously studied. All the species mentioned in this paper therefore, are essentially new records. Although no systematic faunal investigations were carried out, it was felt that publication of a preliminary list of species would be useful. The material studied here was mainly collected between the years 1974 and 1979, and in general represents species encountered more or less accidentally during the course of other entomological investigations.

The only literature records of species of the family Ichneumonidae from the Maltese Islands are those of VALLETTA (1972, 1973) who mentions *Anitastuseberinus* Gravenhorst (sic!) as a parasite of *Pontia daplidice* L. (Lepidoptera: Rhopalocera) and *Peltocarus dendatus* F. (sic!) as parasitizing *Hyles euphorbiae* L. and *Lasiocampa quercifolia* L. (Lepidoptera: Heterocera).

Species list

The classification used here largely follows AUBERT (1969, 1978). The name of the species is given first, followed by distribution data within the Maltese Islands and global distribution. Synonyms, where given, are placed in square brackets.

PIMPLINAE

1. *Exeristes roborator* F.

Malta: Chadwick Lakes 26.VI.77, ♀; 19.VII.77, ♀; Ghajn Ribana 13.II.75, ♀; Marsascalea 26.VII.77, ♀; Ramla tat-Torri 31.VIII.74, ♀; Wied Incita 22.VI.75, ♀, 31.VIII.84, ♀; Wied Qannotta 23.VI.77, ♀; Wied Qirda 4.VIII.79, ♀.

Distribution: Europe, North Africa.

2. *Pimpla instigator* F.

Malta: Tal-Qroqq 15.IV.74, ♀; Wied is-Sewda 1.V.74, ♂.

This species has been observed to emerge from pupae of *Pieris brassicae* L., *Artogeis* (L.) and *Papilio machaon melitensis* Eller.

Distribution: Palearctic region; Canary Islands; Madeira; Japan.

SHAUMAR (1967), discusses the taxonomy of European species of the genus *Pimpla* F.

3. *Pimpla spuria* Grav. (f. *turionelloides* Aub.)

Malta: Fiddien 9.VII.76, ♂.

Distribution: all of Europe up to the Canary Islands.

4. *Itopectis maculator* F.

Malta: Buskett 23.VI.75, ♀; 23.V.75, ♀.

Distribution: Europe, North Africa, Canary Islands; introduced into America in 1952.

The taxonomy of European species of the genus *Itopectis* Foerst. has been discussed by SHAUMAR (1967).

BANCHINAE

5. *Syzeuctus tigris* Seyrig.

Malta: Salina 20.IX.75, ♂; Wied Qirda 20.VIII.83, ♀; Gozo: Qolla s-Safra 27.VIII.77, 2 ♂ ♂.

Distribution: Spain, Mediterranean France, Egypt, Canary Islands; probably circum-Mediterranean.

TRYPHONINAE

6. *Netelia fuscicarpus* Kok. [= *maltractus* Roman]

Malta: Birkirkara 19.II.75, ♂; Buskett 23.VI.75, ♀ + 2 ♂ ♂; Pawla 24.VIII.51, ♀; Ta'Qali 20.IV.81, ♂; San Pawl tat-Targa 17.III.85, ♂ + 2 ♀ ♀. Gozo: Wied ta'Zjata 22.VII.78, 2 ♂ ♂.

Distribution: very widespread in Europe and Russia, Madeira, circum-Mediterranean.

The Palearctic *Netelia* Gray have been revised by DELRIO (1975).

METOPIINAE

7. *Metopius (Peltocarus) dentatus* F.

Malta: Buskett 23.III.75, ♂ + 2 ♀ ♀.

Distribution: Europe up to Siberia.

CLEMENT (1929) has revised the Palearctic *Metopius* Panzer.

8. *Exochus australis* Ths.

Malta: Ghadira 10.VIII.79, ♂.

Distribution: central and southern Europe.

9. *Exochus castaniventris* Brauns

Malta: Wied Qannotta 13.VII.78, ♀; Wied il-Ghasel 3.III.79, ♀.

Distribution: southern Europe from Hungary up to the Pyrenees.

10. *Exochus prosopius* Grav.

Malta: no data.

Distribution: Europe.

MICROLEPTINAE [= Plectiscinae]

11. *Megastylus rufipleuris* Förster

Megastylus = *Myriarthrus* auct.

Malta: Birkirkara 15.II.79, ♀.

Distribution: Europe, Corsica.

ICHNEUMONINAE

12. *Ctenochaeres bicolorus* L. [= *instructor* F.]

Malta: Buskett 4.VII.74, ♀; 18.VII.75, ♀; 23.VI.75, ♂; Hal Far 20.XII.75, ♀; Pawla 25.VI.82, ♀, 8.VI.81, ♀; Wied il-Ghasel 29.III.79, ♂.

Ctenochaeres bicolor has been observed to emerge from pupae of *Plusia gamma* L.

Distribution: circum-Mediterranean.

13. *Protichneumon pisorius* L. ssp. *persicus* Morley

Malta: Buskett 23.VI.75, ♂; Ghajn Ribana 2.VIII.77, ♀; Marfa 10.II.75, ♀; Wied Qannotta 18.VI.77, ♀, 15.VII.77, ♀, 29.VI.75, 2 ♀♀.

Distribution: the nominal subspecies – Europe; subspecies *persicus* – Iran and Afghanistan.

14. *Barichneumon digrammus* Grav. [= *nudicoxa* Ths.]

Malta: Wied Qannotta 18.VI.77, ♀.

Distribution: Europe, Siberia.

15. *Ctenichneumon messorius* Grav.

Ctenichneumon = *Amblyteles* auct.

Malta: Wied Babu 31.III.84, ♂; Wied il-Ghasel 29.III.78, ♀, 20.III.75, ♂.

Distribution: Europe.

16. *Eutanyacra* (*Eutanyacra*) *pictus* Schrk. [= *vadatorius* Ill.]

Malta: Chadwick Lakes 1.VIII.83, ♀; Birkirkara 22.IX.76, ♂; Ghadira 21.IX.75, ♂; Qormi 20.XII.78, ♂.

Distribution: Europe, Iran.

CRYPTINAE

17. *Mesostenus hellenicus* Schmck.

Malta: Ghadira 10.VIII.79, ♀; Wied Qannotta 23.VI.77, ♀.

Distribution: circum-Mediterranean.

18. *Mesostenus grammicus* Grav.

Malta: Salina 20.IX.75, ♂.

Distribution: Europe, especially southern parts, up to Turkestan.

19. *Chirotica productor* Aubert [= *tunetana* Horstm.]

Chirotica = *Allocota*

Malta: Wied is-Sewda 26.IV.75, ♀.

HORSTMANN (1983) discusses the west Palearctic species of *Chirotica* Foerst.

20. *Gelis wesmaeli* Fonsc. [= *caerulea* Pfank] (f. *africana* Seyrig)

Malta: Bahrija 25.III.84. ♀; Chadwick Lakes 4.III.78, ♀; Wied il-Ghasel 29.III.78, ♀; Wied is-Sewda 26.IV.75; ♀; Wied Incita 25.III.84, ♀.

Distribution: circum-Mediterranean.

CEBALLOS (1925) has revised the genus *Gelis* Thbg.

OPHIONINAE

21. *Anomalon* [= *Nototrachys*] *foliator* F.

Malta: Birkirkara 10.V.76, ♂; Ghadira 9.VIII.77, ♀; Wied Qirda 7.V.75, ♀; Wied Qannotta 13.VI.79, 2 ♀ ♀, 23.VI.78, ♀, 29.VI.75, ♀; Wied il-Ghasel 20.VI.79, ♀.

This species often aggregates in small numbers on foliage, especially leaves of *Ficus*.

Distribution: Palearctic.

22. *Devorgilla canescens* Grav.

Devorgilla = *Nemeritis* auct.

Malta: Wied Qannotta 23.VI.77, ♀.

Distribution: Palearctic.

CREMASTINAE

23. *Temelucha* cf. *annulata* SzepI.

Temelucha = *Cremastus*

Malta: Wied Qirda 7.V.77, ♂.

Distribution: not known.

SEDIVY (1970, 1971) has revised *Cremastus* Grav. and *Temelucha* Foerst.

PORIZONTINAE

24. Genus near *Diadegma*

Malta: Wied is-Sewda 9.VI.77.

HORSTMANN (1969) has studied the type specimens of the European *Diadegma* and the present species, although closely related to *Diadegma*, presents some differences from the types.

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ABSTRACT

The Ichneumonidae of the central Mediterranean islands of Malta, Gozo and Comino (the Maltese Archipelago) have not been previously studied. 24 species, representing 7 subfamilies are recorded for the first time. Local and global distributions are given.

RIASSUNTO

Elenco preliminare degli Ichneumonidae delle Isole Maltesi (Hymenoptera).

Gli Ichneumonidae delle isole di Malta, Gozo e Comino (Arcipelago Maltese) nel Mediterraneo centrale non sono mai stati investigati. 24 specie, rappresentanti 7 sottofamiglie, sono segnalate per la prima volta con note sulla loro distribuzione locale e mondiale.