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First record of *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761) for Spain (Lepidoptera: Psychidae)

W. R. Arnscheid

Abstract

The psychid species *Dahlica lichenella* (LINNAEUS, 1761) is reported for the first time for Spain and the Iberian Peninsula from the environment of Benasque (Huesca).

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Psychidae, distribution, Pyrenees, Spain.

Primer registro de *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761) para España (Lepidoptera: Psychidae)

Resumen

Se registra por primera vez para España y para la Península Ibérica el psíquido *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761) de los alrededores de Benasque (Huesca).

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Psychidae, distribución, Pirineos, España.

Dahlica lichenella (Linnaeus, 1761) is one of the most widely distributed psychid species in Europe. Of this species a sexual and a parthenogenetic form exist. Especially the parthenogenetic form is widespread from France eastwards to Ukraine and Russia. In southern Europe it is very rare and only known from scattered colonies in southern France, Italy, Slovenia, Hungary and Romania (ARNSCHEID, 2004, SAUTER & HÄTTENSCHWILER, 1996, SOBCZYK, 2011). Recently it has been recorded from Greece (WEIDLICH, 2013) and this record represented the southernmost populations of the species. No reliable records are known from the major part of the Mediterranean and the Iberian Peninsula (VIVES MORENO, 1994, CORLEY *et al.*, 2013).

Beside the widespread nominotypical parthenogenetic form a sexual form also exists which is very locally distributed in Central and northern Europe eastwards to the Ural Mountains.

In the years 2012, 2013 and 2014 the author visited several times the environment of Benasque in the Pyrenees of Aragon (Huesca). Along the road into the small valley of Ballibierna he collected several larval cases of the parthenogenetic *Dahlica lichenella*. At the end of May only females hatched from the cases and began immediately to lay eggs into the cases. A few days later the young larvae hatched.

The cases were attached to rocks and stones beside the road in the coniferous belt between 1400 and 1600 m. They share their habitat f.e. with the psychid species *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hübner, [1813]) f. parthenogenetic, *Pseudobankesia casaella* Hättenschwiler, 1994 and *Apterona nylander* (Wehrli, 1927). Figures 2 to 4 show the difference between the cases of *D. lichenella* and *D. triquetrella* which occur syntop and synchron in the mentioned habitat. The case of *D. triquetrella* is characterized by

debris of small dead insects covered towards the fore-end. Figure 1 show a female of *D. lichenella* after maceration in 20 % KOH to examine the genital structure.

Acknowledgement

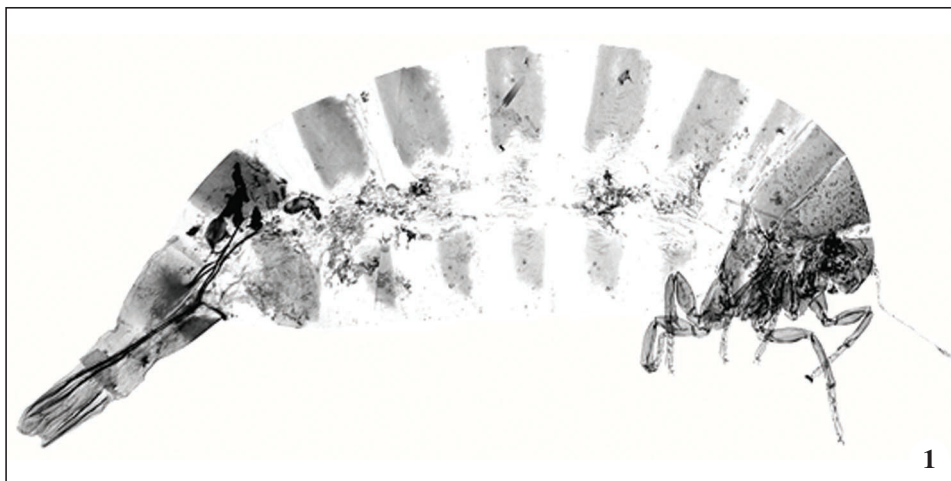
I am grateful to my friend Dr. Michael Weidlich, Neißemünde, for critical discussion as well as to Dr. Antonio Vives, Madrid, for his support to get the permit for field work in the Province of Huesca into the Scientific Project of SHILAP.

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Figs. 1-3.— 1-2. *Dahlica lichenella* (Linnaeus, 1761). 1. Female, 2. Larval case, 3. *Dahlica triquetrella* (Hübner, [1813]). Larval case.