

# Rediscovery and redescription of *Dielocroce ephemera* (Gerstaecker, 1894) in Turkey (Insecta: Neuroptera)

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**Abstract.** *Dielocroce ephemera* which was described from Mardin province (Turkey) in 1894 and has not been found since then, was re-discovered in Batman province in 2002. The description includes illustrations of both male and female genitalia and a discussion of the taxonomic status of the species.

**Kurzfassung.** Der Netzflügler *Dielocroce ephemera*, der 1894 aus der Provinz Mardin (Turkei) beschrieben und seitdem nicht wieder gefunden worden war, wurde 2002 in der Provinz Batman gefunden. Die Beschreibung enthält Abbildungen der männlichen und weiblichen Genitalien und eine Diskussion der taxonomischen Stellung der Art.

**Key words.** Nempoteridae, systematics, Turkey, Anatolia, Middle East.

## Introduction

The family Nempoteridae comprises some 150 species worldwide, with 4 species in Europe (POPOV 1970, HÖLZEL 1975). The family is divided into two subfamilies (ASPÖCK et al.1980): The Crocinae, which includes around 50 species of small size, is distributed in arid and desert zones on the southern borders of the West Palaearctic and West Oriental Regions, and dry areas of the Neotropical, Afrotropical and Australian Regions. With crepuscular-nocturnal flying activity and troglobious habits, its imaginal and preimaginal biology and morphology are rather well known, and its taxonomy, biogeography and phylogeny have been revised. Whilst the Nempoterinae (with two European genera, *Nempoptera* Latreille, 1802 and *Lertha* Navas 1910), comprise almost 100 species, including some of the biggest and most spectacular within the Neuroptera, and have a distribution similar to the Crocinae, their imagines are frequently abundant, have brief seasonal emergence periods, crepuscular or diurnal flying habits, and usually display extremely pronounced endemism restricted to a single habitat (MONSERRAT 1996).

So far, few studies have been carried out on the Neuroptera fauna of Turkey (GERSTAECKER 1894, NAVAS 1910, 1912, HÖLZEL 1968, 1975, POPOV 1970, ŞENGONCA 1981, ASPÖCK et al. 2001). According to these studies, eight species of Nempoteridae have been reported from this country.

## Results and discussion

GERSTAECKER described *Nempoptera (Croce) ephemera* in 1894 from a single female. As the holotype was lost, HÖLZEL (1975) described one female from Mardin preserved in the Bayerische Staatsammlung, Munich, as neotype. Our specimens correspond well to the redescription in this paper, and this species is here redescribed from Batman province.