

Occurrence of species of Pyralidae and Crambidae in Cyprus

(Lepidoptera)

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Abstract. During a survey of Microlepidoptera in the northern part of Cyprus, we identified 10 species of Pyralidae and 23 species of Crambidae. 31 of these species species are recorded for the first time for Cyprus.

Key words. Pyralidae, Crambidae, Lepidoptera, Cyprus.

Introduction

Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean Basin after Sicily and Sardinia. In a study on the Microlepidoptera fauna of Cyprus, ARENBERGER & WIMMER (1999) found 29 species four of which belong to the family Pyralidae. In another study, they found 14 species of Microlepidoptera (ARENBERGER & WIMMER 2003).

Pyralidae and Crambidae have a worldwide distribution and are numerous in all regions. They include some of the economically most important species of Lepidoptera. Pyralids are found on most agricultural, horticultural, forest and garden crops and plants, and some are pests of stored food (HOLLOWAY et al. 1993).

We studied the Pyralidae and Crambidae fauna of Cyprus and found several species new to the island. ARENBERGER & WIMMER (1999) reported 509 Microlepidoptera species in Cyprus, and with our 14 newly-reported Microlepidoptera species the total number of Microlepidoptera now reaches 523.

Material and methods

Samples were collected with mercury vapour light traps between March and November 2007. They were collected in spring, summer and autumn. Samples were caught at three different localities in Cyprus, at different elevations with various climatic conditions, vegetation and surface features. The trapping stations are: Akdeniz (35°18'N, 32°59'E, 174 m), Yenierenköy (35°31'N, 34°10'E, 113 m) and Taşkent-Lefkoşa (35°16'N, 33°22'E, 269 m) (Fig. 1). Samples obtained were dissected, and male and female genitalia and fore-hind wing slides were prepared and photographed with a digital camera in the laboratory.

The species have been deposited in the Biology Department of Mustafa Kemal University, Hatay, Turkey. For species identification we used the works by HANNEMANN (1964), KUCHLEIN (1978), GOATER (1986), PALM (1986), MEDVEDEV (1997), and ATAY (2005).