

First record of the species *Mythimna andereggii* (Boisduval, 1840) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) in Croatia

Prva najdba vrste *Mythimna andereggii* (Boisduval, 1840) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) na Hrvaškem

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In Croatia, the genus *Mythimna* Ochsenheimer, 1816, is represented by 15 species (Kučinić 1997, Karsholt & Nieuwerkerken 2020). Members of this genus occurring in Europe are very similar in appearance, with yellow-brownish wings with more or less black dots and/or markings on the wing. Most species can be distinguished by external wing morphology, while for some the examination of genitalia is necessary (e.g. *Mythimna alopecuri*/*Mythimna sicula*, see Stojanović & Glavendekić 2005).

While some species inhabit the whole country, some of them are related to a specific climate or habitat type (Macek et al. 2008, Leraut 2019). For example, *Mythimna alopecuri* (Boisduval, 1840) and *Mythimna sicula* (Treitschke, 1835) show a predominately Mediterranean distribution, *Mythimna conigera* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775) is usually found in the mountains, while *Mythimna straminea* (Treitschke, 1825) and *Mythimna turca* (Linnaeus, 1761) usually inhabit smaller or larger patches of wetlands.

Here we present the first record of *Mythimna andereggii* (Boisduval, 1840) (Fig. 1). This species was found during our short visit to Mt. Troglav in the Dinara mountain chain. The data of these records are: Croatia, Mt. Troglav, Pume chalet, Velika Divjakuša and Rosića glavica; 43.935822N, 16.572526E, 18.6.2016, 2 ex., leg. Boris Lauš.

It is a Holo-Mediterranean-Central Asian species (Nowacki 1998), in Europe mostly confined to the mountain ranges of the Pyrenees, Apennines, Alps and the mountains in the Balkan peninsula (Macek et al. 2008, Leraut 2019). According to Nowacki (1998), it occurs in open montane habitats like meadows and steppes, between 1,200 to 2,500 m a.s.l. Adults are present between May and August in a single generation (Macek et al. 2008). Its caterpillars feed on different grasses (Hacker et al. 2002). The Balkan populations belong to the subspecies *Mythimna andereggi pseudocomma* (Rebel, 1931).

The screening of all the available literature for the Lepidoptera of Croatia revealed that no record of this species exists in the country. The closest records out from Mt. Troglav are the ones from Bosnia & Herzegovina, from Rilji (Stauder 1926). Recently, the species was also recorded for the first time for the fauna of Serbia (Stojanović et al. 2014). It is found also in Northern Macedonia (Turner 1964) and Slovenia (Carnelutti 1992).

With further explorations of the mountain habitats in Croatia, additional records of new species or the expansion of the known ranges for other mountain species are expected.

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Figure 1. *Mythimna andereggii* from Mt. Troglav, Croatia (photo T. Koren).
Slika 1. *Mythimna andereggii* z gore Troglav, Hrvatska (foto T. Koren).