

Interesting Records of Sawflies from Italy (Hymenoptera: Symphyta: Xyelidae, Pamphiliidae, Siricidae, Orussidae, Cimbicidae & Diprionidae)

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Introduction

This contribution deals with some interesting records of sawflies from Italy. They concern twenty-one species whose distribution in Italy is poorly known; most of them are rare in the country, some are considered rare all over Europe. The species belong to the families Xyelidae, Pamphiliidae, Siricidae, Orussidae, Cimbicidae and Diprionidae. This study was based on examination of material preserved in the following Museums and private collections (the following acronyms are used in the text):

- CEAT** Centro di Educazione Ambientale di Le Viote (Trento, Italy)
DBAC Dipartimento di Biologia Animale “*Marcello La Greca*”, University of Catania (Italy)
DBAR Dipartimento di Biologia Animale e dell’Uomo, University of Rome (Italy)
HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Department of Zoology (Budapest, Hungary)
IESS Istituto di Entomologia, University of Sassari (Italy)
MSNR Museo di Storia Naturale di Faenza (Ravenna, Italy)
MSNF Museo di Storia Naturale di Ferrara (Italy)

- MSNG** Museo di Storia Naturale di Genova (Dodero A. collection) (Genoa, Italy)
MSNT Museo Regionale di Storia Naturale (Turin, Italy)
NHSA Naturhistorisches Museum Stift Admont (Strobl G. collection) (Adont, Austria)
NSMT National Science Museum, Natural History, Department of Entomology (Tokyo, Japan)
FCOF Focarile A. collection, private (Faido, Switzerland)
PCOR Pace R. collection, private (Rome, Italy)
PCOT Pagliano G. collection, private (Turin, Italy)
RCOM Rosa P. collection, private (Bernareggio, Milan, Italy)
TCOC Turrisi G. F. collection, private (Catania, Italy)
UCOF Usvelli A. collection, private (Faenza, Italy)
ZCOT Zanocco D. collection, private (Thiene, Vicenza, Italy)
ZSM Zoologische Staatssammlung München (Munich, Germany)

The systematic account follows Masutti & Pesarini (1995).

Species List

Xyelidae

Xyela alpigena (Strobl, 1895)

Material examined. Piedmont: Santuario di Oropa (province of Biella), 27.VI (no year), 1 ♀, collector unknown (MSNG).

Remarks. The specimen examined was on loan at the times of the Zombori's work of revision and cataloguing of the Dodero Collection (1980), so it remained unpublished. It is the third record for Italy and the first for Piedmont. In Italy the species was previously known from Valle d'Aosta and Trentino-Alto Adige.

Xyela curva Benson, 1938

Material examined. Trentino-Alto Adige: Mt. Brento near Pietra Murata, 500 m, 19.IV.1998, 1 ♀ collected on catkin of *Salix* sp., leg. Zanocco (ZCOT); Abruzzo: L'Aquila, 1951, collector unknown (HNHM); Calabria: Mountains of Sila, Camigliatello, VI.1933, 2 ♀ ♀, leg. Dodero (MSNG).

Remarks. The species was previously known for Italy from Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Calabria (Mountains of Sila) only.

Xyela graeca Stein, 1876

Material examined. Puglia: Lesina, 1900, 2 ♀ ♀, leg. Novak (NHSA); Calabria: Mountains of Sila, Camigliatello, 4.VI.1933, 2 ♀ ♀, 2 ♂ ♂, leg. Dodero (MSNG).

Remarks. The above record from Puglia is the first published for that region. The species was previously known for Italy only from Friuli, Calabria (Mountains of Sila) and Sicily (Masutti & Covassi 1978, Turrisi 1999).

Xyela julii (Brèbisson, 1818)

Material examined. Piedmont: Torre Bormida (province of Cuneo), 3.IV.1972, 1 ♀, leg. Pagliano (PCOT); Valle d'Aosta: Saint-Pierre loc. Combelin, 1700 m, on *Pinus sylvestris* L., no date, a small series, leg. Focarile (FCOF), 1 ♂ in MSNF; Lombardy: Riva N, Lago di Tenno, 500–600 m, 3–6.V.1976, 4 ♀ ♀, leg. A. Shinohara, det. S. Blank (NSMT).

Remarks. Although common and abundant in Central Europe (Taeger et al. 1998), this species is rarely found in Italy. The only records in literature were from Valle d'Aosta and South Tyrol (Alto Adige). In the Dodero collection (MSNG) we have also examined 1 ♀ from Germany, Thuringia, "Südabhang des Greifensteins", leg. Schmiedeknecht, which was not reported by Zombori (1980).

Xyela obscura (Strobl, 1895)

Material examined. Valle d'Aosta: Grandes Jorasses, SE slope, 1800–2400 m, on *Pinus mugo* Turra, no date, 1 ♀, leg. Focarile (FCOF); Lombardy/Trentino: Monte Tremalzo, Cima Avéz, 1870 m, 17.VI.1958, 1 ♀, collector unknown (ZSM); South Tyrol (Alto Adige): Sexten (= Sesto), Mt. Helm, Bergstation, 17.VII.1998, 11 ♀ ♀, 4 ♂ ♂, leg. E. Altenhofer (coll. S. M. Blank).

Remarks. The above record from Valle d'Aosta is the first for the western sector of Italian Alps. In Italy the species was previously known from Lombardy, Veneto and Trentino-Alto Adige.

Pamphiliidae

Acantholyda laricis (Giraud, 1861)

Material examined. Lombardy: Cusino (province of Como), 15.VII.1961, 1 ♀, collector unknown (RCOM, formerly in Barajon collection).

Remarks. The specimen has antennae with 31 joints (as in *A. posticalis* Matsumura, 1912) but undoubtedly belongs to *A. laricis*. It is the first record for Lombardy. In Italy the species was known for Friuli and Trentino-Alto Adige. Further findings for Trentino are from Mt. Bondone, 1700 m (CEAT) and from Rabbi (ZCOT).

Acantholyda pumilionis (Giraud, 1861)

Material examined. Valle d'Aosta: Valsavarenche, 1 ♀, date not registered, leg. Pagliano (PCOT); Lombardy: Mountain of Grigna (province of Lecco), VI.2000, 1 ♀, leg. Sabbadini; Val Gerola loc. Lago di Trona (province of Sondrio), 1800 m, 20.VII.2002, 1 ♀, leg. Sabbadini (MSNF); Veneto: Altopiano di Asiago, loc. Val Galmarara (province of Vicenza), 1800 m, on *Pinus mugo* Turra, 1 ♀, 3.V.1999, leg. Monguzzi (MSNF); Friuli: Prealpi Carniche, Val Cimoliana, loc. Cimolais (province of Udine), 1600 m, 16.VI.1999, 1 ♀, leg. Monguzzi (MSNF).

Remarks. *A. pumilionis* occurs in the sub-alpine zone of the Alps and eastwards on other European mountain ranges. It is recorded for the first time in Lombardy. It was previously known for Italy from Valle d'Aosta, Piedmont, Veneto, Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli.

Acantholyda serbica Vasič, 1962

(= *A. populi* auct. nec Linné, 1767)

Material examined. Calabria: Mountains of Sila, loc. La Fossiatà (province of Cosenza), 1300 m, 12.VI.1992, 1 ♀, leg. Osella & Zuppa (MSNF).

Remarks. Re-discovered in Italy on the base of a single ♀ from Calabria housed in the Dodero collection by Pesarini & Pesarini 1976, as *A. populi*. Previously it was reported from Veneto,

but those ancient records were highly doubtful. *A. serbica* is one of the rarest (and the largest) of the European Pamphiliidae. Besides Italy, it is known on very few specimens from Serbia and Romania (Van Achterberg 1987), Bulgaria (Shinohara 1997) and Spain (Pérez Fortea et al. 1997). Therefore, the finding of one further specimen, which the Authors had the opportunity to examine through the courtesy of Prof. Giuseppe Osella of the University of L'Aquila, is of great interest. It has been collected in the same forest district as the previous one. As far as is known, the larva of *A. serbica* feeds on *Pinus nigra* ssp. *nigra* Arn., most often on rather old trees (Van Achterberg 1987), and the south-western European *P. nigra* ssp. *salzmannii* Asch. & Graebn. (Pérez Fortea et al. 1997). On the Mountains of Sila maybe it feeds on *P. nigra* ssp. *calabrica* (Land.) E. Murray, since *P. nigra* ssp. *nigra* is not indigenous (and perhaps not present) in Calabria (Pignatti 1982, Spampinato 2002).

Pamphilius alternans (Costa, 1860)

Material examined. Piedmont: San Benedetto Belbo (province of Cuneo), 4.V.2003, 1 ♀, leg. Pagliano (MSNF).

Remarks. The only Italian records of this species, although described from Italy and widely distributed (but infrequent and localized) across Europe, were till now the type from Basilicata and some specimens from Emilia (Costa 1894, Benzi & Picaglia 1896; both recorded as *Lyda a.*). The present record is the first since over one century from the latter ones and states its presence in the north-western sector of the country. Only recently (Lacourt 1995) some information on its biology has been reported, indicating *Acer pseudoplatanus* L. as the probable host-plant of the larva (the observations concerned the habits of adults only).

Pamphilius aurantiacus (Giraud, 1857)

(= *P. neglectus* Zaddach, 1866)

Material examined. Friuli: Laghi di Fusine (province of Udine), 16.VI.1994, 1 ♀, leg. Pagliano (MSNT); Romagna: Foresta di Campigna loc. Fangacci (province of Forlì-Cesena), 26.VI.1965, 1 ♀, leg. Malmerendi (MSNR); Campania: Bosco di Petina (province of Salerno), 700 m, 9.VI.1973, 1 ♀, leg. Costa & Caruso (DBAC).

Remarks. The record for Friuli is the first for Italian Alps and that for Campania is the first for Southern Italy. The species was previously known for Italy from Romagna and Abruzzo.

Pamphilius balteatus (Fallén, 1808)

Material examined. Trentino: Mt. Bondone loc. Bocca Vaiona, 1750 m, on *Alnus viridis* (Chaix) DC., 18.VI.1998, 1 ♂, leg. Zanocco (ZCOT); Veneto: Altopiano di Asiago loc. Lastaro (province of Vicenza), in forest of *Picea*, 7.VI.1995, 1 ♀, leg. Zanocco (ZCOT).

Remarks. In Italy the species was known only for Piedmont on specimens collected more than seventy years ago (see Pesarini & Pesarini 1976). The reported records are the first for the Eastern sector of Italian Alps.

Pamphilius betulae (Linné, 1758)

Material examined. Lombardy: San Colombano al Lambro (province of Lodi), 14.VI.1988, 1 ♂, collector unknown (MSNF); Romagna: Brisighella loc. Canara (province of Ravenna), other data not registered (MSNR); Umbria: environs of Colfiorito (province of Perugia), 900 m, 27.V.1988, 1 ♀, leg. Gobbi (DBAR); Latium: Subiaco, loc. Mt. Autore (province of Rome), 1600 m, 1 ♂, leg. Pace (PCOR).

Remarks. These new records give a wider and more reliable information on the Italian distribution of *P. betulae* than most of the previous data of literature, since the species was confused for a long time with the related *P. festivus* C. & F. Pesarini, 1980. It is likely, however, that the species is distributed all over the continental regions of Italy.

Pamphilius inanitus (Villers, 1789)

Material examined. Valle d'Aosta: Val di Gressoney loc. Fontainemore, near Lago Vargno, 1600–1800 m, VI.1981, 1 ♂, leg. Focarile (FCOF).

Remarks. It is the third record for Italy and the first for Valle d'Aosta. The species was known for Italy on few specimens from Piedmont collected more than seventy years ago (see Pesarini & Pesarini 1976).

Pamphilius lethierryi (Konow, 1887)

Material examined. Valle d'Aosta: Bien (untraced locality), 8.VIII.1977, 1 ♀, leg. Pagliano (PCOT); Gran Paradiso, loc. Mont Blanc, 20–30.VI.1997, 1 ♀, leg. Sabbadini (MSNF); Lombardy: Menconico loc. Mt. d'Alpe (province of Pavia), 10.VI.1990, 1 ♀, leg. Pace (MSNF).

Remarks. The record from Menconico is the first for the Apennines as well as for Lombardy of this beautiful and infrequent species. Previously it was reported for Italy from Piedmont and generically from Valle d'Aosta.

Siricidae

Sirex cyaneus Fabricius, 1781

Material examined. Emilia: Casinalbo (province of Modena), 10.IX.1972, 1 ♀, collector unknown (ISUS); Romagna: Foresta Lama (province of Forl-Cesena), 700 m, 13.VII.1982, 1 ♀, leg. Sama (PCOT); *ibid.*, 7.IX.1995, 1 ♀, leg. Usvelli (UCOF).

Remarks. These records are the first for Emilia-Romagna. Previously, *Sirex cyaneus* was reported for Italy from Friuli, Veneto and Tuscany.

Orussidae

Orussus abietinus (Scopoli, 1763)

Material examined. Basilicata: Pollino Mountain loc. Toppo di Vuturo (province of Potenza), 1600 m, 24.VI.1987, 2 ♀ ♀, leg. Liberto, Colonnelli & Gobbi (DBAR, MSNF).

Remarks. This is the first record for Basilicata. For Italy the species was known of Piedmont, Abruzzo, Campania, Calabria and Sicily, and recently it has been reported from Alto Adige (Kraus 1998, on old material) and Sardinia (Schedl & Ritzau 1995).

Orussus unicolor Latreille, 1812

Material examined. Lombardy: Mezzanino (province of Pavia), 11.05.2003, 1 ♀, leg. Pavese (MSNF).

Remarks. This is the first record for Northern Italy. The species was reported by Guiglia (1946) from Piedmont (Cassano Spinola), but this record was later referred to *O. moroi* Guiglia, 1954 (Guiglia 1954). The only Italian records of *O. unicolor* were from Latium (Acilia di Roma; Giordani Soika 1947) and Sicily (without additional data) (Guiglia 1952b).

Pseudoryssus henschii (Mocsáry, 1910)

Material examined. Lombardy: Marmirolo loc. Bosco della Fontana (province of Mantova), 29.VIII.1998, 1 ♀, leg. Mason & Tagliapietra (MSNF); Sicily: Alimena (province of Palermo), 1 ♀, 3 ♂ ♂, from wood of *Salix* collected 18.IV.2002; specimens reared 2.VI.1992, leg. I. Sparacio (TCOC).

Remarks. The specimen from Lombardy was collected by aerial trap during the investigations on invertebrate fauna of the Natural Reserve of Bosco della Fontana (a residual deciduous tree forest) carried out by the Centro Nazionale per lo Studio e la Conservazione della Biodiversità Forestale (State Forestry Corps). Until some years ago, *P. henschii* was

reported for Italy only from Tuscany (slopes of Mt. Morello, Sesto Fiorentino, province of Florence) (Guiglia 1952a). Recently, it has been recorded for Marche (environs of Genga, torrente Sentino, province of Ancona) and E-Sicily (Mt. Etna, South slope, loc. I Cassini, 1250 m) (Tomarchio & Turrisi 2002). The probable hosts known in literature are *Clytus arietis* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera Cerambycidae) (Rose 1998) and *Anthaxia* sp. (Coleoptera, Buprestidae) (Tomarchio & Turrisi 2002). We can add another Buprestidae as a new probable host, *Agrilus lineola* Redtenbacher, 1849 (det. I. Sparacio), reared together with the four Sicilian specimens.

Cimbicidae

Cimbex femoratus (Linné, 1758)

Material examined. Sicily: Mt. Etna, Piano Provenzana near Mt. Nero, 1800 m (province of Catania), 15.V.2001, 1 ♂, leg. S. Privitera (TCOC).

Remarks. The specimen examined lacks the head and has thorax and abdomen black (typical form of *C. femoratus*). The present record is the first for a species of the genus *Cimbex* Olivier, 1791 for Sicily. Most likely, it is also the southernmost record for *C. femoratus*, a species associated to *Betula* and therefore with a scattered distribution in Southern Europe. The specimen, obtained through the courtesy of S. Arcidiacono and S. Privitera (both of Catania), was collected near a mixed wood of *Pinus nigra* ssp. *calabrica* (Land.) E. Murray, *Fagus sylvatica* L. and *Betula aetnensis* Rafinesque. The latter is the only native species of the genus *Betula* of Sicily and it is most likely the host plant of *C. femoratus* in the Island. In literature, *C. femoratus* has been reported from most regions of continental Italy, but its distribution in the country has to be clarified. Male specimens of *C. luteus* (Linné, 1758) from Italy have the wings generally strongly darkened on the outer margin and have been often misidentified as *C. femoratus*. This matter has been extensively dealt with by Bibolini (1967).

Diprionidae

Gilpinia frutetorum (Fabricius, 1793)

Material examined. Sicily: Mt. Mount Etna, Pineta di Randazzo, Randazzo, 1250 m (province of Catania), 15.VII.2002, 1 ♀, S. Bella leg. (TCOC).

Remarks. The species is new to Sicily. The present record is also the first for a species of the

genus *Gilpinia* Benson, 1939 for this Island. Previously, only one species of Diprionidae was known for Sicily, *Diprion pini* (Linné, 1758) (Turrisi & Bella 1999). The specimen examined was obtained through the courtesy of S. Bella (San Gregorio di Catania).

Gilpinia polytoma (Hartig, 1834)

Material examined. Veneto: Altopiano di Asiago loc. Lastaro (province of Vicenza), 1100 m, ex larva on *Picea*, 3.VIII.1995, 2 ♂♂, leg. Zanocco (ZCOT, MSNF); Romagna: Tredozio, loc. Lago del Ponte (province of Forlì-Cesena), 750 m, 16.V.1993, 1 ♀, leg. Fabbri (MSNF); Marche: Piobbico loc. Mt. Nerone (province of Pesaro-Urbino), 1250 m, 18.VI.1995, 1 ♀, leg. Fabbri (MSNF).

Remarks. The above records are the first for Veneto, Romagna and Marche. Although fairly common elsewhere in Europe, *G. polytoma* was known for Italy only from few specimens from Piedmont, Alto Adige, Friuli, Tuscany and Latium (very old record, as *Lophyrus p.*, Costa 1894; in any case, the host-plant, *Picea abies* (L.) Karsten, is not native to the regions south of Tuscany).

Acknowledgements

The authors are indebted to all colleagues who have provided specimens, which resulted as helpful for this study: S. Arcidiacono (Catania), S. Bella (San Gregorio di Catania), A. Focarile (Faido, Switzerland), R. Monguzzi (Milan), G. Osella (L'Aquila), G. Pace (Rome), G. Pagliano (Turin), S. Privitera (Catania), P. Rosa (Bernareggio, Milan), A. Sabadini (Milan), I. Sparacio (Palermo), A. Usvelli (Faenza, Ravenna), D. Zanocco (Thiene, Vicenza); and to the curators of the institutes that submitted specimens for study and identification and which are listed in the text. The authors thank moreover A. Taeger (Eberswalde, Germany), who kindly gave his opinion on the identification of *Gilpinia fruetorum* (Fabricius).

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Abstract

Interesting Records of Sawflies from Italy (Hymenoptera: Symphyta: Xyelidae, Pamphiliidae, Siricidae, Orussidae, Cimbicidae & Diprionidae). A commented list of interesting records of sawflies from Italy is given. They concern the following 21 species: *Xyela alpigena* (Strobl, 1895), *X. curva* Benson, 1938, *X. graeca* Stein, 1876, *X. julii* (Brébisson, 1818), *X. obscura* (Strobl, 1895) (Xyelidae); *Acantholyda laricis* (Giraud, 1861), *A. pumilionis* (Giraud, 1861), *A. serbica* Vasič, 1962, *Pamphilius alternans* (Costa, 1860), *P. aurantiacus* (Giraud, 1857), *P. balteatus* (Fallén, 1808), *P. betulae* (Linné, 1758), *P. inanitus* (Villers, 1789), *P. lethierryi* (Konow, 1887) (Pamphiliidae); *Sirex cyaneus* Fabricius, 1781 (Siricidae); *Orussus abietinus* (Scopoli, 1763), *O. unicolor* Latreille, 1812, *Pseudoryssus henschii* (Mocsáry, 1910) (Orussidae); *Cimbex femoratus* (Linné, 1758) (Cimbicidae); *Gilpinia frutetorum* (Fabricius, 1793), *G. polytoma* (Hartig, 1834) (Diprionidae).

Zusammenfassung

Interessante Nachweise von Pflanzenwespen aus Italien (Hymenoptera: Symphyta: Xyelidae, Pamphiliidae, Siricidae, Orussidae, Cimbicidae & Diprionidae). Es wird eine kommentierte Liste von interessanten Pflanzenwespenfunden aus Italien vorgelegt. Die Nachweise betreffen die folgenden 21 Arten: *Xyela alpigena* (Strobl, 1895), *Xyela curva* Benson, 1938, *X. graeca* Stein, 1876, *X. julii* (Brébisson, 1818), *X. obscura* (Strobl, 1895) (Xyelidae); *Acantholyda laricis* (Giraud, 1861), *A. pumilionis* (Giraud, 1861), *A. serbica* Vasič, 1962, *Pamphilius alternans* (Costa, 1860), *P. aurantiacus* (Giraud, 1857), *P. balteatus* (Fallén, 1808), *P. betulae* (Linné, 1758), *P. inanitus* (Villers, 1789), *P. lethierryi* (Konow, 1887) (Pamphiliidae); *Sirex cyaneus* Fabricius, 1781 (Siricidae); *Orussus abietinus* (Scopoli, 1763), *O. unicolor* Latreille, 1812, *Pseudoryssus henschii* (Mocsáry, 1910) (Orussidae); *Cimbex femoratus* (Linné, 1758) (Cimbicidae); *Gilpinia frutetorum* (Fabricius, 1793), *G. polytoma* (Hartig, 1834) (Diprionidae).