

On the occurrence of *Euroleon nostras* (Fourcroy, 1785) in the Turkish ant-lion fauna (Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae)

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Abstract: The author collected pit building ant-lion larvae in Ankara province in order to breed them. The larvae were kept in normal lab conditions and fed with ants. The hatched imago was identified as a female of *Euroleon nostras* (Fourcroy, 1785), which is recorded from Turkey for the second time. Some remarks are made on the biology and distribution of the species as well.

Key words: Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae, Turkey.

Introduction

Larvae of ant-lions (Myrmeleontidae) look familiar to many people through the funnel-shaped pitfall traps constructed in the loose soil especially in the arid or semiarid areas. The function of these objects is capturing preys (Bongers & , 1984) and they play important roles in the temperature tolerance of the larvae (Ábrahám, 2003).

Material and methods

During a fieldwork carried out in Ankara province a third instar of ant-lion living in sheltered habitat was collected in the vicinity of Lezgi village near Kazan (40°08'N, 32°44'E) at 1080 m asl., on 11.05.2002. The microhabitat of the larva was protected from direct sunshine and wind under rocks overhangs, in a pine forest.

The larva was put into a glass container which was previously filled with loose soil from their natural habitat and the larva was fed with ants. It always moved only backwards while building its pitfall. The larva was kept at 25°C±5°C with 60% RH and the photoperiod of 16L/8D. During pupation the larva spun spherical shaped cocoon, 13 mm in diameter, incorporated a dense coating of soil particles into external surface. The pupation took place within 15 days. During emergence the soft-bodied imago left the cocoon through a circular cup-like aperture but the exuvium remained at the bottom of the cocoon then it dragged itself up to the surface.

Results and Discussion

The imago was identified as a female of *Euroleon nostras* (Fourcroy, 1785) (Figure 1). Known from the Turkish ant-lion fauna (Hölzel, 1972), only a male of the species was recorded on 6.IX.1967 also in Ankara province. However, specimens of female have not been recorded in Turkey yet.

Euroleon nostras is widespread in all over the European countries therefore it is the well studied species from biological point of view (Gepp & Hölzel, 1989; Yasseri & Parzefall, 1996; Devetak, 2005)

In Spain larvae of this species were found under bushes of *Juniperus oxycedrus* (Diaz-Aranda & Monserrat, 1988) In Central Europe it is known as the most common species found along the edge of houses living in rural areas (Gepp & Hölzel, 1989). Ábrahám (1998) even hatched its parasite, *Micomitra stupida* (Diptera, Bombyliidae) from cocoon of this species in Hungary.

The species recorded in almost all European countries from South Great Britain to west Russia, from Germany to Spain. Known from Morocco in Africa and it also occurs in Asia: Turkey (Central Anatolia), Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan.

It may be a polycentric Mediterranean-extramediterranean faunal element (Aspöck *et al.*, 2001).

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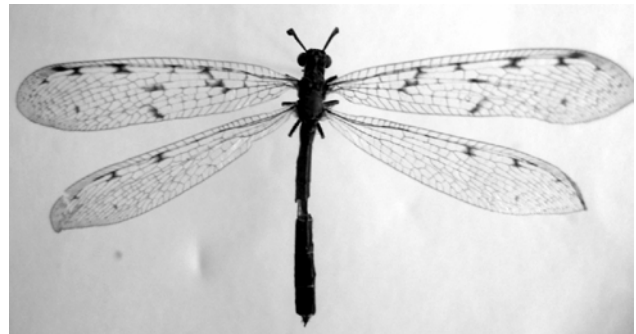


Fig. 1. Habitus of *Euroleon nostras* (Fourcroy, 1785)

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