

First record of *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793) from Albania (Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae)

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Abstract – *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793) (Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae) is reported from Albania for the first time. With three figures.

Key words – brown lacewing, Balkan Peninsula, distribution, faunistics

INTRODUCTION

The brown lacewing genus *Micromus* Rambur, 1842 (Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae) is represented by seven species in Europe (ASPÖCK *et al.* 1980, 2001). A single species of the genus, *Micromus lanosus* (Zelený, 1962), was reported from Albania by KLOKOCOVNIK *et al.* (2014). In spite of considerable recent collecting efforts of neuropterologists (DEVETAK *et al.* 2019, DEVETAK 2021), no further congeners have been detected, and the latest checklist (DEVETAK & RAUSCH 2016) enumerates only this species of *Micromus* from the country.

This paper presents the first record of an additional species of the genus, *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793), from Albania. The voucher specimen was collected in 2014 during one of the collecting trips to the Balkan Peninsula, which are regularly carried out by the staff of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (HNHM) and Mátra Museum of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Gyöngyös (MM of HNHM) (see FEHÉR *et al.* 2004, MURÁNYI *et al.* 2011).

The voucher specimen is preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol, and is deposited in the HNHM. Identification was based on ASPÖCK *et al.* (1980), and on comparative examination with specimens in the collection of HNHM.

RESULTS

Micromus variegatus (Fabricius, 1793)
(Fig. 1)

Material examined – Albania, Korçë district, 2.5 km W Mazrekë, E slope of Mt Mjetë, open stream, N40°36'6.8", E20°23'25.0", 1580 m, 09.10.2014, beaten, leg. P. Juhász, T. Kovács, G. Puskás, No. 2014–94 (Figs 2–3).

Remark – First record from Albania.

Distribution – *Micromus variegatus* is a widespread Palaearctic species occurring in Europe and Asia (ASPÖCK *et al.* 2001), and was introduced to North America (e.g. ASPÖCK *et al.* 2001, KLIMASZEWSKI *et al.* 2009, JOHNSON & FURNISS 2012). It is known from almost entire Europe, except only from a few northern and southern countries and several Mediterranean islands (ASPÖCK *et al.* 2001, JEDLIČKA *et al.* 2004).



Fig 1. *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793), voucher specimen from Albania. Scale bar: 1 mm
(photo by Viktória Szőke)



Figs 2–3. The collecting site and habitat of *Micromus variegatus* in Albania Korçë district, 2.5 km W Mazrekë, E slope of Mt Mjetë. 2 = landscape of Mt Mjetë, 3 = the habitat with the running stream (photos by Tibor Kovács)

Bionomics – Like other species of the neuropteran families Chrysopidae, Coniopterygidae and Hemerobiidae, *Micromus variegatus* is a predator of aphids. It is one of the most effective predators and most important agents of biological control on agricultural plants (DUNN 1964, STELZL & DEVETAK 1999).

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A *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793) barnafátyolkafaj első előfordulási adata Albániából (Neuroptera: Hemerobiidae)

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Összefoglalás – Jelen munkában a szerző a *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793) barnafátyolkafaj első előfordulási adatát közli Albániából. Három ábrával.

Kulcsszavak – Balkán-félsziget, faunisztika, elterjedés

ÁBRAMAGYARÁZATOK

1. ábra. *Micromus variegatus* (Fabricius, 1793) albániai bizonyítópéldánya. Méretléc: 1 mm (fotó: Szöke Viktória)

2–3. ábrák. A *Micromus variegatus* bizonyítópéldányának gyűjtőhelye Albániában: Korcë kerület, 2,5 km nyugatra Mazrekë településtől, Mjetë-hegy. 2 = a Mjetë-hegy látképe, 3 = élőhely a hegyről lerohanó patakkal (fotók: Kovács Tibor)