

FIRST RECORD OF *EUCHROMIUS OCELLEUS* (HAWORTH, 1811) (LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE) IN SLOVENIA

Stanislav GOMBOC¹, Dušan KLENOVŠEK²

¹ EGEA, Institution for Nature, Tacenska cesta 135a, SI-1113 Ljubljana, stanislav.gomboc@siol.net.

² Kozjanski Park, Podsreda 45, SI-3257 Podsreda, dusan.klenovsek@kp.gov.si

Abstract - One specimen of *Euchromius ocellus* (Haworth, 1811) was found in Kozjanski Park, Slovenia, on September 11th, 2012, at the end of a hot summer period. The specimen was caught on an UV light tent trap during inventory of moths in a sand pit at Gradišče near Župjek, not far from the Croatian border. Since only one specimen was registered so far in Slovenia, it is assumed that this was a migrant which did not reproduce here.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Crambidae, fauna, moths, Slovenia, Kozjanski Park

Izvleček - PRVA NAJDBA VRSTE *EUCHROMIUS OCELLEUS* (HAWORTH, 1811) (LEPIDOPTERA: CRAMBIDAE) V SLOVENIJI

Primerki vrste *Euchromius ocellus* (Haworth, 1811) smo ob koncu vročega poletnega obdobja našli v Kozjanskem parku. Primerki smo ujeli na UV svetlobne privabilne vabe med nočnim popisom metuljev v peskokopu v Gradišču pri Župjeku, 11. sept. 2012, nedaleč od hrvaške meje. Ker smo doslej v Sloveniji zabeležili le en osebek, predvidevamo, da gre za selivca, ki se tukaj še ne razmnožuje.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: Lepidoptera, Crambidae, favna, metulji, Slovenija, Kozjanski park

In the long heat wave of the summer 2012 many Mediterranean Lepidoptera migrants were recorded across Slovenia, many also in the Alps. *Helicoverpa armigera* (Hübner, 1808), *Nomophila noctuella* (Denis & Schiffermüller, 1775), *Spodoptera exigua* (Hübner, 1808), *Agrotis ipsilon* (Hufnagel, 1766), non native invasive *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) and others were very common this summer.

In Kozjanski Park, which is situated in the southeastern Slovenia, bordering Croatia, we are studying Lepidopteran fauna since 2003. This is a very warm part of Slovenia in the summer and cold in the winter time, with a low rate of the yearly precipitation at about 600 mm. The Lepidoptera fauna in the region is a mix of Pannonian, Alpine and Mediterranean faunistical elements. Up to now more than 1000 species of butterflies and moths were recorded in the region.

On September 11th, 2012, during the night observation with the UV light tent traps, one specimen of *Euchromius ocellus* (Haworth, 1811) was observed. This is the first record of *E. ocellus* in Slovenia, not mentioned in the literature (Lesar, 2010; Gomboc & Lasan, 2006). *E. ocellus* is a migrant species only occasionally occurring in Central Europe (Slamka, 2008; Schouten, 1988). The species has a cosmopolitan distribution, from Tropics to Subtropics, North and South Africa, large part of Asia, North America, Australia, Hawaii, South Europe, Canary and Madeira Islands. In Central Europe it seems to be an occasional migrant, which can establish temporary populations. There are scattered records across Europe of occasional findings of the species, also for all neighboring countries of Slovenia.

Moths overwinter as adults and have up to two generations a year, depending on climate zone (Slamka, 2008; Schouten, 1988). It can be found in warm, dry to fresh habitats. In Europe it occurs most often in early spring and late autumn, and it is possibly also imported with grain products (UK Moths, 2012). The larvae feed on various dried plant material, often also on stored food products (Slamka, 2008).

In Slovenia only one species of the genus *Euchromius* – *E. superbellus* (Zeller, 1849) was known until now. *E. ocellus* can be easily distinguished from *E. superbellus* by longer, elongated forewings, which are crossed by two yellowish cross-lines, which run obliquely on the wing. For other identification details see Slamka (2008), Schouten (1988) and Bleszynski (1965).

E. ocellus was found in the sand pit, which is exposed to the sun, dry during the day and cooler and humid during the night. The locality is: Kozjanski Park, Župjek, Gradišče (Bizeljsko), Sand pit, close to the Croatian border. This is a ruderal habitat, produced by mining of silicate sand. The habitat consists of pioneer vegetation,



Fig. 1: *Euchromius ocellus* (Haworth, 1811): **A** – Slovenia, Štajerska, Kozjanski park, Župjek, Gradišče (Kozje) , 11th Sept. 2012, male, Gomboc S. leg.; **B** – Croatia: Krk Island, Baška, Sv. Ivan, 1st July 2007, female, Gomboc S. leg. Photo: S. Gomboc.

mainly invasive plant species (*Robinia pseudoaccacia*, *Solidago gigantea*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*), some hygrophilous species, shrubs and trees, mainly *Populus* and *Salix*.

Further findings of this species are expected, even in older collection material since there were not many specialists dealing with Microlepidoptera before. Additional confirmations of the species are expected in the material collected in the heat wave of the 2012, which is not yet set and identified. As only one specimen was found on the locality it is presumed that it is only a migrant specimen, without established larval population in the area.

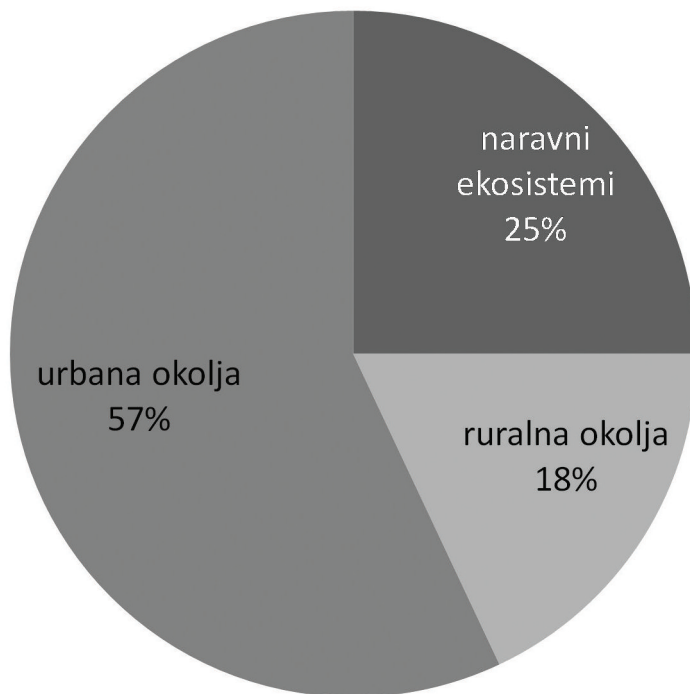
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Received / Prejeto: 16. 11. 2012

POPRAVEK / ERRATUM

V članku Prvi seznam tujerodnih vrst hroščev (Coleoptera) v Sloveniji A. Vrezca, A. Kaple in M. Jurc (AES 20 (2): 157–178) na strani 170 žal ni bila objavljena prava slika 3. Oproščamo se za napako in pravo sliko objavljamo tukaj.



Sl. 3. Okolja pojavljanja tujerodnih vrst hroščev (Coleoptera) v Sloveniji.

Fig. 3. Environments of alien beetle (Coleoptera) species occurring in Slovenia.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Acta Entomologica Slovenica](#)

Jahr/Year: 2013

Band/Volume: [21](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Gomboc Stanislav, Klenovsek Dusan

Artikel/Article: [First record of *Euchromius ocellus* \(Haworth, 1811\) \(Lepidoptera: Cramidae\) in Slovenia 77-79](#)