



**TWO NON-EUROPEAN SPECIES OF DIGGER-WASPS RECORDED ALSO IN SLOVENIA (HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE)**

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**Abstract** – Two non-European species of Sphecinae have been found also in Slovenia. *Sceliphron curvatum* was introduced from Asia and was discovered first in Austria. *Isodontia mexicana* was introduced from America; its European occurrence is reported from France.

**Izvešček** – Dve neevropski vrsti os grebač najdeni v Sloveniji (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

Dve neevropski vrsti os grebač sta bili najdeni tudi v Sloveniji. *Sceliphron curvatum* izvira iz Azije in je bil v Evropi odkrit v Avstriji. *Isodontia mexicana* izvira iz Amerike in je bila v Evropi doslej znana v Franciji.

**Introduction**

Digger-wasps of the subfamily Sphecinae are noted by their size and shape. Two species recently found in Slovenia were introduced into Europe from other continents. Both are well established in Slovenia, becoming a part of the domestic fauna. One of them is a member of the genus *Sceliphron*, known to build nests of mud and hunt spiders (Araneae) for its offspring. The members of the genus *Isodontia* to which the other species belongs, hunt orthopterans (Orthoptera).

*Sceliphron curvatum* (Smith, 1870)

The species has an Asiatic distribution: Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan, Pakistan, Nepal and India (DOLLFUSS, 1991). In Europe, in Austria, it was first discovered in 1979 (VAN DER

VECHT, 1984). It is also widely spread in Slovenia, where it has been found in Prekmurje near Hungary and on the Karst near Italy. By its black petiolus, it is easily distinguished from the allied taxa in Slovenia. An identification key can be found in DOLLFUSS (1991).

Records from Slovenia:

WM96 Prekmurje: Gančani, ♀, 12-VIII-1991, S. Gomboc leg.

VL59 Lj. Barje: Lukovica, ♀, 7-VII-1991

VL07 Kras: Brje pri Komnu, ♀, 11-VIII-1992

*Isodontia mexicana* (Saussure, 1867)

*I. harrisi* Fernald, 1906; *I. apicalis* auct.

A species from Central America and the eastern United States. It was discovered in Europe about thirty years ago (KELNER-PILLAULT, 1962), in France, where it became widely spread in the Mediterranean coastland (HAMON et al., 1988, 1991). PAGLIANO (1984, 1985) does not mention it for the Italian fauna. It is common in the sub-Mediterranean region of Slovenia, where it became the most common species of the genus. I also found it in the vicinity of Ljubljana, in central Slovenia. It is distinguished from its black congener, *I. paludosa*, by totally blackish wings and black hairs on the face. *I. splendidula* was also found in Slovenia but it has red basal terga. An identification key can be found in HAMON et al. (1991).

Records from Slovenia:

VM60 Ljubljana, Črnuče, ♀, 23-VI-1993

VL07 Kras: Brje pri Komnu, ♀, 5-VIII-1990

VL14 Kraški rob: Hrastovlje, ♂, 13-VI-1992

The species feeds on various Apiaceae, for example *Ferulago* in the Karst region.

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