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**A new subspecies of *Athripsodes taounate* (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae) from Sicily**

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**Abstract.** The male of *Athripsodes taounate siculus* ssp.n. from southeastern Sicily (Italy) is described and illustrated.

In northern Africa, the *Athripsodes taounate* group is represented in Morocco by *A.taounate* DAKKI & MALICKY 1980, and in Algeria by *A.ygramul* MALICKY & LOUNACI 1987. During research carried out in 1995 in southeastern Sicily by the Bergamo Museum of Natural Sciences „E.Caffi“, Valle and Pantini, using light traps, collected some specimens of *Athripsodes* which are closely related to *A.taounate*, but not belonging to any of the known taxa. It is interesting that specimens from southern Spain and from southern Portugal have a certain variation, compared with those of the *taounate* group of northern Africa (GONZALEZ & al 1990). An examination of some Iberian males, kindly sent to me by M.González, shows that they differ from the Sicilian males. The new finding in Sicily confirms the western Mediterranean subspeciation of the group.

***Athripsodes taounate siculus* ssp. n.**

Forewing length 10 mm. Head and body dark, wings uniformly pale brown. Male genitalia (Fig. 1): Characterized by the shape of the inferior appendages. The upper margin of the first segment is irregular (more or less excised) and the distal part has a very characteristic shape in lateral view. In ventral view the first segment is only slightly longer than the second segment. The second segment resembles that of *ygramul*, but is more robust.

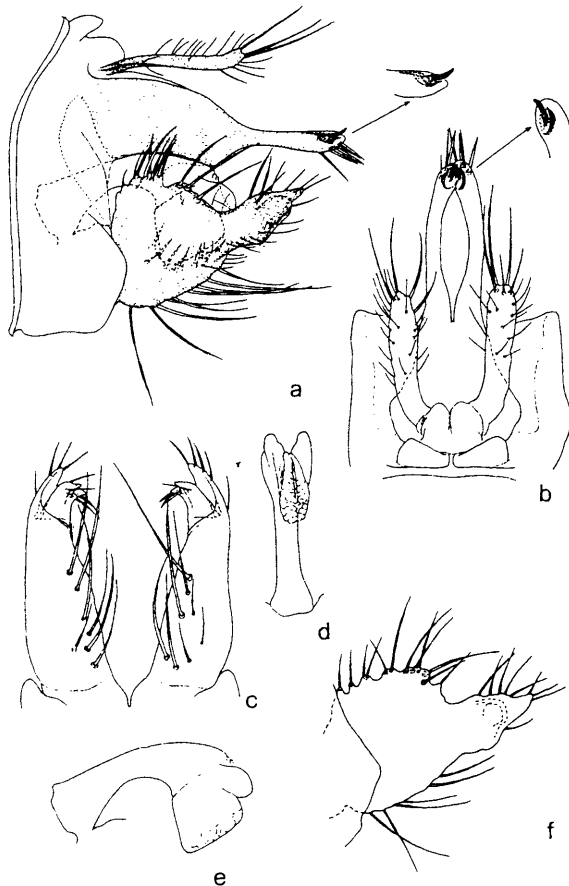


Fig. 1: *Athripsodes taounate siculus* ssp.n. holotype, male genitalia: a lateral, b dorsal, c ventral, d Aedeagus ventral and e lateral; f inferior appendage of a specimen from Cava Manghisi.

Holotype male: Sicily, Noto, Cava Grande, SR, 390m asl., 28 July 1995, light trap, leg. Pantini & Valle. – Paratypes: Cava Manghisi, SR, 350m asl., 27 May 1995: 1♂; 30 May 1995: 2♂; Torrente S.Chiera, 300m asl., 27 July 1995, light trap, leg. Pantini & Valle: 1♂. All these in the Museo Civico di Scienze Naturali “E.Caffi”, Bergamo. – Paratypes: Cava Manghisi, 30 May 1995: 1♂. Molino Papa C.Grande, SR, 360m asl., 27 July 1995: 1♂, both in the Moretti collection at the University of Perugia.

In 1961 Professor Moretti drew the male genitalia of a specimen (Fig. 2) found in southeastern Sicily (Ciane river, SR, 8 April 1961: 5♂, 1♀, leg. Moretti). He noted that it could be a new species, but, awaiting more specimens, he assigned it to *Leptocerus cinereus* with reservations. The morphological characteristics of the genitalia drawn by Moretti are identical to those of the specimens described here.

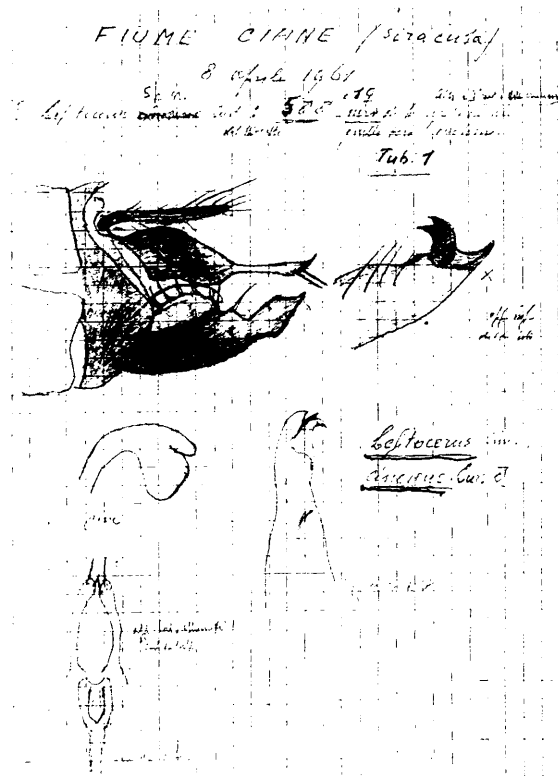


Fig. 2: The original drawing by Prof. Moretti from 1961.

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**References**

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