

Abstract*

Present status of the Slovenian ant fauna (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

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The ant fauna of Slovenia was generally reviewed a few years ago (BRAČKO 2000), when 105 species were listed. At present, however, 129 ant species are known in Slovenia. Most of the collected material was identified by using the taxonomic key in SEIFERT (1996). The ant fauna was compared in different regions, defined on the basis of the phytogeographic division of the territory of Slovenia. The number of recorded species ranges from 57 in the Predinarian to 97 in the Submediterranean region. The highest species richness was expected in the Submediterranean region, as this part of Slovenia is already under the natural influences of the Mediterranean area, which comprises the most diverse ant fauna in Europe. Thirty-nine species are found in all six regions, while 47 are known each from only one region. Among the latter, 29 species are limited to the Submediterranean part of the country. Calculation of the qualitative similarities between the ant fauna of the particular regions using the Sørensen index indicates that the Prealpine and Predinarian regions are the most similar. These two regions also display the highest average similarity and can be treated as the least specific. This is not surprising because both have characteristics of transitional regions. On the other hand, the ant fauna of the Alpine and Submediterranean regions exhibit the least similarity and can

be treated as the most specific. The 128 native ant species found in Slovenia were categorized zoogeographically on the basis of their distributions within the European continent (CZECHOWSKI & al. 2002, RADCHENKO 2007) (Tab. 1). Almost 55 % of the species belong in two categories, i.e., Central- and South-European and European. Both categories are likewise the most frequent in all particular regions of Slovenia. On the other hand all but one of the 14 species belonging in the South-European category are distributed only in the Submediterranean region.

References

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Tab. 1: Zoogeographic composition of the ant fauna (native species only) of entire Slovenia and its particular regions (AL – Alpine, PA – Prealpine, SM – Submediterranean, DN – Dinaric, PD – Predinarian, SP – Subpannonian).

| Zoogeographic category | Species numbers in Slovenia | No. of species in particular regions | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | AL | PA | SM | DN | PD | SP |
| Alpine | 1 | 1 | – | – | – | – | – |
| Apenninian & Balkan | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Balkan | 3 | – | – | 2 | – | – | 1 |
| Boreo-montane | 11 | 11 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 |
| Central European | 8 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| Central & South European | 36 | 14 | 26 | 29 | 19 | 20 | 23 |
| Central & (South-)East European | 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 5 |
| European | 34 | 30 | 28 | 30 | 28 | 27 | 29 |
| South European | 14 | – | – | 14 | – | 1 | – |
| Southeast European | 5 | – | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Total | 128 | 63 | 69 | 97 | 68 | 57 | 63 |

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