

On the presence of *Scythocentropus inquinata* (Mabille, 1888) (Noctuidae: Xyleninae) on the Iberian Peninsula, a first record for continental Europe

ANTONIO S. ORTIZ, JOSÉ A. DE LA CALLE & JUAN JOSÉ GUERRERO

Departamento de Zoología y Antropología Física, Area de Biología Animal, Universidad de Murcia.
Campus de Espinardo, Apartado 4021, E-30071 Murcia; aortiz@um.es

Scythocentropus inquinata (Mabille, 1888) was described from specimens collected in Gabes (Tunisia). The species was originally placed in the genus *Hadena* Schrank, 1802. Later, it was described again as *S. ferrantei* Draudt, 1911 from Cairo (Egypt) and as *S. mercedes* Pinker, [1974] from a male collected at Las Mercedes on Tenerife Island. Fibiger & Hacker (2007) reported three species of the genus in the European fauna: *Scythocentropus scripturosa* (Eversmann, 1854) and *S. misella* (Püngeler, 1908), both found in South Russia, and *S. inquinata*, collected in Malta.

According to Fibiger & Hacker (2007) *Scythocentropus inquinata* is one of the most widespread South Palaearctic eremic noctuids, its range extending from Pakistan and North India through the Arabian Peninsula and North Africa, to the Canary Islands. This distribution corresponds to the Saharo-Sindian pattern.

The species inhabits desert and semi-desert environments and it is thought to have a univoltine life cycle, flying from October to November, or to be bivoltine in some localities, flying in March as well (Hacker & Schreier 2001). Other details of the life cycle and food plant preferences are unknown.

Material: 1♂, [Spain] Monte El Cambrón, Cartagena, 30SXG6361, 250 m, 18.x.2008 (Carmelo Abad, leg.). Deposited in the collection of the Department of Zoology and Physical Anthropology of Murcia University (Spain).

The single male was collected in a natural protected area of Sierra de la Muela and Cabo Tiñoso, in the southeastern Iberian Peninsula, close to the city of Cartagena, in a coastal mountainous landscape. This area is characterized by calcareous soils and has a termo-mediterranean bioclimatic regimen. Arbustive and thorny vegetations characteristic of arid and sub-arid ombroclima (named as murcian-almerian and mulyan distribution) are predominant and are drought-deciduous during the summer dry period. This plant association is known as *Mayteno europaei-Periplocetum angustifoliae* Rivas Goday & Esteve in Rivas Godoy 1951 *nom. inv. et corr.* Rivas-Martínez 1975. Outstanding species are *Periploca angustifolia* Labill. (Asclepiadaceae), *Maytenus senegalensis* Lam. (Celastraceae), *Clematis cirrhosa* L. (Ranunculaceae), *Arenaria montana* L. (Caryophyllaceae), *Chamaerops humilis* L. (Palmae), *Asparagus albus* L. and *A. acutifolius* L. (Liliaceae), *Ephedra fragilis* Desf. (Ephedraceae), *Osyris quadripartita* Salzm. (Santalaceae), etc. (see Alcaraz et al. 1991; Peinado et al. 1992).

New studies in this area will be carried out to determine if *Scythocentropus inquinata* is a recent arrival or migrant on the Iberian Peninsula.



Figs 1–2. Iberian specimen of *Scythocentropus inquinata*. 1. Adult. 2. Male genitalia.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Ortiz Antonio, de la Calle José A., Guerrero Juan José

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