

# *Synanthedon syriaca*, a new species to the Turkish fauna (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)

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**Abstract.** *Synanthedon syriaca*, a new species to the Turkish fauna (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae). The presence of several specimens of *Synanthedon syriaca* Špatenka, 2001 was demonstrated in the Turkish province of Hatay. All specimens were collected as imago between 14 May and 29 May 2008. This is the first record of this species from Turkey. The distribution of the species is briefly discussed.

**Samenvatting.** *Synanthedon syriaca*, een nieuwe soort voor de Turkse fauna (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)

De aanwezigheid van verscheidene exemplaren van *Synanthedon syriaca* Špatenka, 2001 werd aangetoond in de Turkse provincie Hatay. Alle exemplaren werden als imago verzameld tussen 14 May and 29 May 2008. Dit is de eerste waarneming van deze soort voor Turkije. De verspreiding van de soort wordt kort besproken.

**Özet.** *Synanthedon syriaca*, Türkiye faunası için yeni bir kayıttır (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae). *Synanthedon syriaca*'nın çok sayıda bireyinin Hatay'da varolduğu belirlenmiştir. Tüm örnekler 14-29 Mayıs 2008 tarihleri arasında ergin olarak toplanmıştır. Bu Türkiye'den bu türün ilk kayıdıdır. Türün dağılımı kısaca tartışılmıştır.

**Résumé.** *Synanthedon syriaca*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune turque (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)

Plusieurs imagos de *Synanthedon syriaca* Špatenka, 2001 furent observés entre le 14 et le 29 mai 2008 dans la province de Hatay, Turquie. Il s'agit de la première mention de cette espèce en Turquie. La distribution de cette espèce est brièvement commentée.

**Key words:** Sesiidae – *Synanthedon syriaca* – faunistics – Turkey – distribution.

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## Introduction

During a recent research on the Sesiidae fauna of the Turkish province of Hatay, several specimens belonging to this family were collected. In May 2008 a series of animals collected with pheromones in the surroundings of Yayladağı attracted the attention. Morphologically, the specimens resembled strongly *Synanthedon vespiformis* (Linnaeus, 1761) but the coloration of the apical area of the forewing and the discal spot of the hindwing were somewhat different. Also the anal tuft showed some differences. For all these reasons, genitalia slides were made and they revealed a clear difference with *S. vespiformis*.

Based on both morphological and the genitalia characters, the second author determined the species as *S. syriaca*. This species was originally described on only three specimens: two from Syria and one from Israel (Špatenka 2001). Therefore, it is not really a surprise that this species also occurs in the Turkish province of Hatay. Recently, the species was also recorded from the mountains in northern Jordan (T. Stalling, pers. comm.)



Figs. 1–2. *Synanthedon syriaca* Špatenka, 2001. **1.**– Imago, Turkey, Hatay, Yayladağı, 29.v.2008, leg. E. İ. Sağıroğlu. Wing span: 21 mm; **2.**– Male genitalia, preparation nr. S4.



Fig. 3. Habitat of *Synanthedon syriaca*. Turkey, Hatay, Yayladağı, May 2008 (Photo: Feza Can).

### Materials and methods

During 2008 several localities in Hatay were investigated for the presence of Sesiidae. Several artificial pheromones were used for this purpose. Eight *S. syriaca* specimens were caught on a pheromone originally developed for *Synanthedon formicaeformis* (Esper, 1783). The composition is EZ2,13 - 18:Ac

and EZ3,13 - 18:Ac in a ratio 1:1 (500 µg + 500 µg) from the Pherobank (Plant Research International, Wageningen, The Netherlands).

Yayladağı is a locality in the southern part of Hatay not far from the border with Syria. The dominant plant cover in Yayladağı consists of shrubs: *Rubus* sp., *Paliurus spina*, *Cotinus coggygia*, *Echinops* sp., *Eryngium* sp., *Pistacia terebinthus*, *Cirsium* sp., *Ononis natrix*, *Salvia* sp. Evergreen trees such as *Quercus* sp., *Pinus* sp., *Laurus* sp. and *Olea* sp. occur between the shrubs.

### **Geographical distribution**

The occurrence of *S. syriaca* seems to be restricted to the eastern Mediterranean area. The discovery of this species in Hatay fits well in the already known distribution of the species although this is based on only three records. Most probably this species is still largely overlooked and it is expected to occur in the entire east-Mediterranean.

### **Conclusion**

The discovery of *S. syriaca* in Hatay is not really a surprise, but the fact that this species is now recorded in fair numbers for the first time opens opportunities to discover the hitherto unknown female. Comparison of the plants in this area with the flora in possible new localities can lead to the discovery of the hostplant too. Anyhow, next summer, all plants (starting with trees and shrubs) will be investigated for infestation in an attempt to breed the species.

### **References**

- Špatenka, K., 2001. Neue paläarktische Glasflügler-Arten (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae). — *Entomologische Zeitschrift*, Stuttgart **111**(3): 75–80.
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