

FIRST RECORD OF THE SOLITARY BEE *COLLETES INTRICANS* SPINOLA, 1838 IN EUROPE (HYMENOPTERA, APOIDEA, COLLETIDAE)

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Abstract: The first European data about *Colletes intricans* are provided. This is a species widely distributed in northern Africa but so far unknown from Europe. The two localities where it has been collected are located in the south of the Iberian Peninsula.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Colletidae, *Colletes intricans*, first data, Iberian Peninsula, Europe.

Primeros datos sobre la abeja solitaria *Colletes intricans* Spinola, 1838 en Europa (Hymenoptera, Apoidea, Colletidae).

Resumen: Se aportan los primeros datos sobre *Colletes intricans* en Europa. Se trata de una especie ampliamente repartida por el norte de África pero desconocida de Europa hasta el momento. Se ha capturado en dos localidades del sur de la Península Ibérica.

Palabras clave: Hymenoptera, Colletidae, *Colletes intricans*, primeros datos, Península Ibérica, Europa.

The Colletidae constitute a family of primitive solitary (or gregarious) bees, distributed all over the world but more diversified and abundant in the temperate regions of Australia and South America (Michener, 2000). The genus *Colletes* Latreille, 1802 is present in the temperate and tropical regions of all the continents, with the exception of the Indo-Australian region. In the Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Islands we have registered the presence of a total of 30 species (Ortiz-Sánchez *et al.*, 2004; Kuhlmann & Ortiz-Sánchez, 2005).

The *Colletes succinctus* (Linnaeus, 1758) group is represented in the Palearctic region by 13 species (Kuhlmann, 2000, 2003; Dubitzky & Kuhlmann, 2004; Kuhlmann & Quest, 2006). Out of these, four have been recorded from our fauna (Ortiz-Sánchez *et al.*, 2004) up to now. In recent years we have studied material deposited in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden (Netherlands; NNML), as well as other loaned by E. Scheuchl, that has led to the detection of another species of the group in the Iberian Peninsula.

Colletes intricans was described, on material from Egypt, as a species very close to *Colletes succinctus* (see Spinola, 1838). Later on came the description of *Colletes kervillei* Pérez, 1907, which Noskiewicz (1936) considered as a synonym of *Colletes succinctus*; in turn, the latter author described *Colletes succinctus aegyptiacus* Noskiewicz, 1936, from Sudan.

Kuhlmann (2003) dealt in detail with the taxonomic status of *Colletes intricans* and related species, including type studies. He discussed the morphological characters of *Colletes succinctus* and *C. intricans* and discovered the principal phenological differences between both species: *Colletes intricans* is active only in the spring time, whereas *Colletes succinctus* is a species of the late summer. The correct synonymy of the former species is as follows:

Colletes intricans Spinola, 1838

Colletes intricans Spinola, 1838. *Ann. Soc. entomol. France*, 7: 507

Colletes kervillei Pérez, 1907. *Bull. Soc. Sci. nat. Rouen*, 43: 20

Colletes succinctus aegyptiacus Noskiewicz, 1936. *Pr. Nauk. Wydaw. Tow. Nauk. Lwowie*, (2)3: 479

The species was known to be distributed in the whole of northern Africa and now the first records are provided for the European continent (fig. 1).

Taking into account how difficult it is to separate this species from the very close ones that compose the *succinctus* group, it would not be surprising if it should prove to be more widespread in the Peninsula. Further research is needed to understand its distribution and phenological patterns, especially in relation to *Colletes brevigena* Noskiewicz, 1936, the other species of this group active in spring.

Material studied

PORTUGAL: 2 ♂♂, Baixo Alentejo, Marateca (W08°51' N37°07'), 16-V-1958, coll. NNML / coll. Kuhlmann.

SPAIN: 1 ♂, Prov. Murcia, 20 km south of Murcia, Balsicas (W00°57' N37°49'), 2-V-2001, E. Scheuchl leg., coll. Kuhlmann.

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Fig. 1. Known distribution of *Colletes intricans*. / **Fig. 1.** Distribución conocida de *Colletes intricans*.

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