First Records of Platypezidae (Diptera) from Mainland Portugal with a First Record for Iberia of the Genus Paraplatypeza Kessel & Magioncalda

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There are no records known to us of Platypezidae from mainland Portugal, but there is one species Callomyia dives (Zetterstedt, 1838) recorded from Madeira (Chandler, 1974). The Mediterranean region is inadequately studied with regard to species distribution, composition, diversity and ecology of Diptera in general and the Platypezidae are probably even less well-known.

The Platypezidae are fungivorous insects in their larval stages and mainly inhabit damp forests where fungi are likely to thrive. The Iberian Peninsula still has large tracts of forest and 20 species of Platypezidae in eight genera are known from there (Carles-Tolrà & Báez, 2005). In this article, we give the first records from mainland Portugal. The number of specimens is small (39), yet these comprise of ten species in seven genera. The genus Paraplatypeza Kessel & Magioncalda, 1968 is new to Iberia. Platypeza Wahlgren, 1910 and Platyzeina Meigen, 1803 (Platypezinae) should eventually be found in Portugal as they are widespread species that are already known from Spain (Carles-Tolrà & Báez, 2002).

Notes on the habitats

All the material listed in this article was collected by one of the authors (R. Andrade) in the North of Portugal. The specimens were identified by M. Ebejer using Chandler (2001). It is preserved in alcohol and deposited in his private collection, unless otherwise indicated in the data following each species.

In Avintes (41°55’.49”N, 8°33’.26”W), sampling using water traps, and by hand collecting, was made in the Parque Biológico de Vila Nova de Gaia, a park in the outskirts of the city of Vila Nova de Gaia. It consists of around 35 hectares, through which flows the small river Febros, a tributary of the Douro river. The landscape was significantly altered in the past for agriculture and other human development. Included among many tree species are the following:

- Quercus robur
- Alnus glutinosa
- Frangula alnus
- Salix atrocinerea
- Lonicera sp., and other exotic
- Hedera sp.

The single specimen of Platypezidae from Apúlia (41°28’.41.07”N, 8°46’.29.54”W) was swept from around a small isolated specimen of Pinus pinaster growing on dunes. The dunes in Apúlia belong to the Esposende coastal protected area, on which the following common plant species can be found: Ammophila arenaria, Calystegia soldanella, Carpobrotus edulis, Euphorbia paralias, Helichrysum spp. and Pancratium maritimum.

Microsaniinae


Callomyiinae


Platypezinae


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References:


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