The Persian Skipper *Spialia phlomidis* (Herrich-Schäffer, [1845]) is considered great rarity in Bulgaria. It was reported for the first time by de Jong (1978: 52), mentioning material from Rhodopi: Asenovgrad. Three years later Krzywicki (1981: 45) recorded it from the Struma River Valley, Kresna. In 1993, a third locality was found, Mt Slavyanka, Hambar Dere (Kolev, 1994: 152). Adding the above, Kolev expressed the opinion that in the previously reported localities the species occurrence is doubtful.


In the middle of June 2000, during a trip accompanied by my friend and colleague Vasily Tuzov (Moscow, Russia), a new colony of the species was encountered in
Zemen Gorge, Skakavitsa. The discovery of *Spialia phlomidis* here represents a significant extension of the known range of the species. All the specimens collected here have been found flying in a dry calcareous river bed (Fig. 2). The first date of collection, 15 June, also extends its flight period; all the previous records have been from July (11, 15) (Krzywicki, 1981: 45, Kolev, 1994: 152). Natural hostplants and early stages still remain unrecorded in Europe (Tolman & Lewington, 1997: 266).

*Figure 2.* Habitat of *Spialia phlomidis* (H.-S.) in the Struma Valley, Zemen Gorge, Bulgaria.

References


