

***Xylocoris formicetorum* (Boheman, 1844)
(Heteroptera: Anthocoridae), a new member of
the myrmecophilous fauna of the Balkan
Peninsula**

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Xylocoris formicetorum was found during an investigation of the myrmecophilous fauna in the nests of *Formica* in Vitosha and Rila mountains. That fact is interesting because of its geographic position which is far away from the borders of the former areal known up to now.

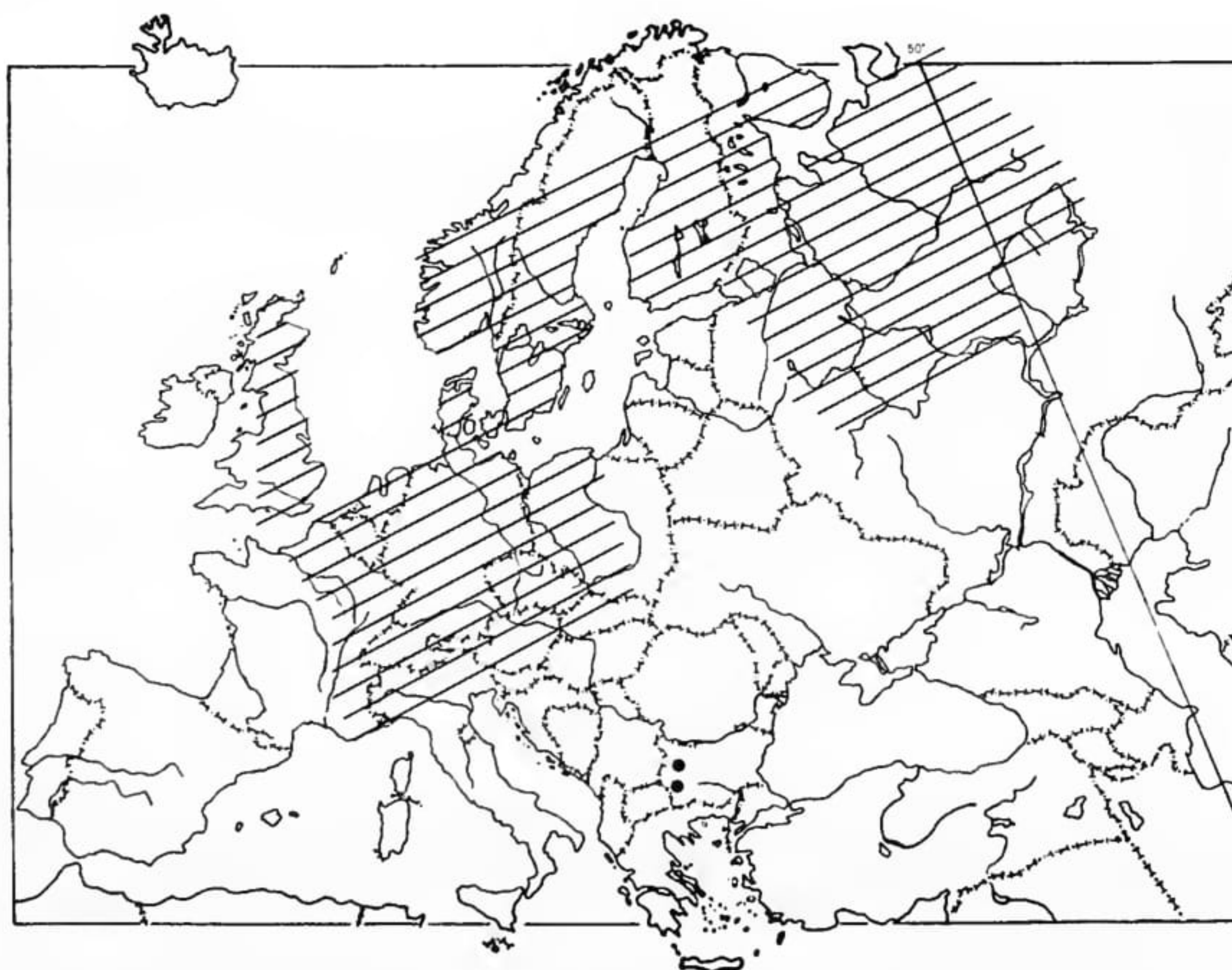


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Xylocoris formicetorum* in Europe
▨ - after PÉRICART (1972); ● - Bulgarian localities

X. formicetorum is a boreal species distributed in Central Europe, Great Britain, the European part of Russia and Scandinavia where it is found even far beyond the polar circle. The species has not been reported from the Balkan Peninsula ever since (JOSIFOV, 1986).

X. formicetorum is an obligatory myrmecophil, being the only member with such characteristics of the family Anthocoridae known in Europe. Most commonly it has been found in the nests of *Formica rufa* L., but there are data of occurrence in the nests of other species of Formicidae - *Formica execta* Nyl, *F. sanguinea* Latr., *F. truncicola* Nyl, *Lasius flavus* (F.) (PÉRICART, 1972), *F. fusca* L. (WAGNER, 1961). It could be found in every part of the nest throughout the whole season (PÉRICART, 1972).

The species was found in Bulgaria in nests of *Formica rufa* and *F. pratensis* Retz. in Rila and Vitosha mountains at altitudes from 1000 to 1850 m above sea level, during the period of April till November. It is possible to find it in some more southern regions of the country where there are suitable conditions such as high altitude and localities of *F. rufa* and *F. pratensis*, as for example Pirin Mts, the Rhodopes, Slavyanka and Belasitsa mountains. The locality in Rila Mts is the most southern point of distribution of the species in Europe known up to now.

Material

Xylocoris formicetorum (Boheman, 1844)

In nests of *Formica rufa*

West Bulgaria, Vitosha Mts: 59 specimens, 6. 10. 1998, Tsvetni Polyani, 1650 m; 11 specimens, 2. 9. 1998, Goli Vrah, 1850 m; 17 specimens, 25. 10. 1998, above Simeonovo Village, 1600 m.

Southwest Bulgaria: Rila Mts, 32 specimens, 24. 7. 1998, Panichishte, 1400 m.

In nests of *Formica pratensis*

West Bulgaria, Vitosha Mts, Bistritsa Village, 1000 m: 11 specimens, 20. 6. 1997; 31 specimens, 14. 11. 1999; 19 specimens, 29. 4. 1998.

The material was collected by A. Lapeva and D. Gradinarov, and determined by N. Simov. Deposited at the Institute of Zoology, Sofia.

References

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***Xylocoris formicetorum* (Boheman, 1844)
(Heteroptera: Anthocoridae) - нов представител на
мирмекофилната фауна на Балканския полуостров**

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(Р е з ю м е)

Съобщено е за пръв път намирането на *Xylocoris formicetorum* (Boheman, 1844) (Heteroptera, Anthocoridae) на Балканския полуостров - в България (Витоша и Рила) в гнезда на *Formica rufa* и *F. pratensis* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).