



**NEW DATA ON *OECOPHORA BRACTELLA* (LINNAEUS, 1758)
IN SERBIA (LEPIDOPTERA: OECOPHORIDAE)**

Predrag JAKŠIĆ

University of Niš, Faculty of Sciences, Višegradska Str. 33, 18000 Niš, Serbia;
jaksicpredrag@gmail.com

Abstract - New distributional data of the little known species *Oecophora bractella* in Serbia are reported.

KEY WORDS: *Oecophora bractella*, new records, Serbia

Izvleček – NOVI PODATKI O VRSTI *OECOPHORA BRACTELLA* (LINNAEUS, 1758) V SRBIJI (LEPIDOPTERA: OECOPHORIDAE)

Navedeni so novi podatki o slabše poznani vrsti *Oecophora bractella* v Srbiji.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: *Oecophora bractella*, novi podatki, Srbija

Representatives of the family Oecophoridae in Serbia have not been sufficiently examined yet. The first data were published by Živojinović (1950), who outlined *Alobonia staintoniella* (Zeller 1767) and *Harpella forficella* (Scopoli 1763) for Majdanpek area. The same species were published later by Zečević (1999, 2002) for Zaječar and Mt. Stol. Fazekas (2009) recorded *Crassa unitella* (Hübner, 1976) for some Balkan countries, including Serbia. Finally, Stojanović et al. (2014) reported *Denisia stipella* (L, 1758) for Tara Mt., Kaluđerske Bare, Western Serbia. According to Karsholt & Razowski (1996), 44 species of Oecophoridae occur in former Yugoslavia. When it comes to *Oecophora bractella* (Linnaeus, 1758), only few data are known from former Yugoslavia. Following literature, this species was mentioned by Rebel (1904) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prenj Mt; Abafi-Aigner (1910) for Croatia, Bakar (Buccari); Kasy (1961) for Macedonia, Treska; Klimesch (1968) for Macedonia, Treska, Brodec, Petrina, Planina Mt. and Lesar & Govedič (2010) for Slovenia.

The first records of *Oecophora bractella* (L., 1758) in Serbia were published by Stojanović (2012). He observed this species in two localities in Fruška Gora Mt.: Ledinci Stokuća (UTM: DR00) and Sremski Karlovci Stražilovo (DR10).

New data

West Serbia region towards Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro border in geologic–tectonic term belongs to Inner Dinarides, while in phytogeographical terms it belongs to Moesian phytogeographic province of the Balkan floristical subregion (Horvatić, 1967). In the first place due to lack of exploration, we decided to get to know the composition of the Lepidoptera fauna in the river Lim valley and Mts. Jadovnik, Zlatar and Pobijenik massif. We would like to know the influence of Kopaonik Mt. in the East, Tara Mt. in the North, Prokletije Mt. in the South-West and Durmitor Mt. in the West to the fauna of this region. Rich faunistic material had been collected during several years.

Oecophora bractella is one of more interesting species. It was recorded on June 1st, 2014 in Mt. Jadovnik, Sopotnica, 986 m, CN99, N 43°18'19", E 19°44'18", Gauss–Krüger coordinate system (Photo).



Fig. 1: *Oecophora bractella*: Serbia, Mt. Jadovnik, Sopotnica. Photo: P. Jakšić.

The species was found in developed and well preserved beech forest [ass. *Fagetum submontanum mixtum* Mišić (1963) 1972]. According to Tokár et al. (2005) *Fagus* und *Carpinus* are preferred hosts but several other genera from the families Betulaceae, Salicaceae, Rosacea, Aceraceae and occasionally Pinaceae have been recorded. Caterpillars feed in the dead bark of rotten deciduous trunks, or on lichens or fungi growing on the trunks. Sterling (1984) noticed: "It seems that larvae prefer to live under thin bark in which there is some moisture, but not so much that the wood has rotted beneath, and in trunks which have probably been dead for between two to five years". Explored area of Jadovnik Mt. is rich in such habitats. The adults are on the wing from early evening to the morning and they are easily attracted to artificial light.

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