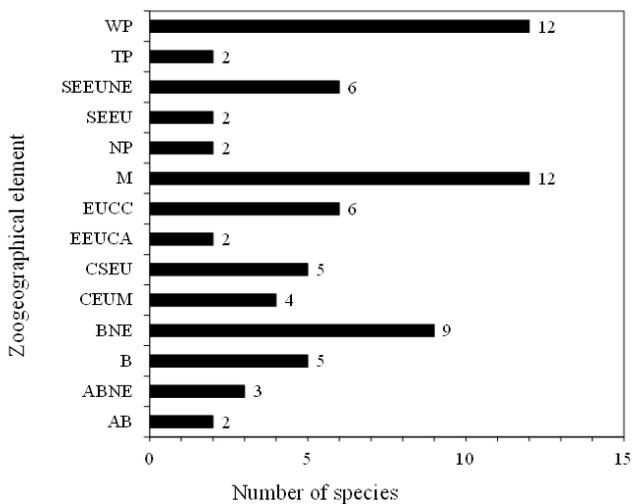


Abstract*

Contribution to the knowledge of the ant fauna of the southeastern part of the Republic of Macedonia

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The Balkan Peninsula is one of the Europe's richest areas in ant diversity, even though its ant fauna is still rather insufficiently investigated. The same is true for the territory of the Republic of Macedonia in south of the Balkans, with only few published contributions on country's ant fauna. In April 2010 we sampled ants in several localities in the southeast of the Republic of Macedonia, applying different methods: direct sampling, pitfall trapping, baiting and litter sifting. Altogether 82 species were found during our investigation, 40 of which were not listed in the last review of Macedonian ant fauna by KARAMAN (2009). Some of the more interesting species that are quite rare were *Oxyopomyrmex krueperi*, *Temnothorax finzii*, *Temnothorax cf. korbi*, *Tetramorium cf. hippocrate*. The ant species found in this study were zoogeographically classified based on known data on their distribution. More than half of them belong to either West Palaearctic, Mediterranean or those distributed in the Balkans and adjacent regions (Fig. 1). For some species like *Camponotus aegaeus*, *Camponotus ionius*, *O. krueperi*, the southeast of the Republic of Macedonia probably presents the northern border of their range. Additionally, we performed a comparison of ants collected in three different habitats (i.e. karst meadow, pseudomaquis and pine forest) near Star Dojran, where the sampling was most systematic.



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Fig. 1. Zoogeographical composition of ants found in the southeastern part of the Republic of Macedonia (zoogeographical elements: AB – Apenninian & Balkan, ABNE – Apenninian-Balkan & Near Eastern, B – Balkan, BNE – Balkan & Near Eastern, CEUM – Central European & Mediterranean, CSEU – Central & South European, EEUCA – East European & Central Asian, EUCC – Euro-Caucasian, M – Mediterranean, NP – North Palaearctic, SEEU – Southeast European, SEEUNE – Southeast European & Near Eastern, TP – Transpalaearctic, WP – West Palaearctic).

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* Extended abstract of the presentation held at the 4th Central European Workshop of Myrmecology, 15-18.09.2011, Cluj-Napoca, Romania