

SHORT COMMUNICATION

A CHECK LIST OF ANTS (HYMENOPTERA: FORMICOIDEA)  
OF A SANDY GRASSLAND IN KISKUNSÁG NATIONAL PARK  
(HUNGARY)

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Abstract

The check list of a sandy grassland plot of 2.5 ha contains 30 ant species, about one third of whole Hungarian *Formicoidea* fauna. Some new (*Myrmica schencki*, *Epimyrma goesswaldi*, *Tapinoma ambiguum*, *Lasius carnolicus*) and rare (*Plagiolepis xene*, *Anergates atratulus*) species have been found for the Hungarian fauna. The high diversity is explained by the heteromorph environmental character, presence of transitional successional stages and the high immigration rate.

*Key words:* *Formicoidea*, sandy grassland, Kiskunság National Park

Although a comprehensive identification key (SOMFAI, 1959) as well as some papers concerning local ant faunas of Bakony Mts. (GALLÉ, 1978) and national parks (GALLÉ, 1981, 1986 and in press) have been published, the Hungarian ant fauna is not sufficiently studied. From careful and detailed studies we can expect species being known as new or rare in Hungary. An enumeration of ant species living in the Kiskunság National Park is given by GALLÉ (1986), but since then several additional species have been collected in the research area.

The ant material, present short paper is based upon, was collected in a 2.5 ha research plot of a sandy grassland in Kiskunság National Park in the period from 1976 to 1987. Most ants were caught by Barber traps. Altogether 70—90 traps were continuously used from March to November in each of eleven years (1977—1987). In addition, hand collections, tray traps, window traps and sweep nets provided a considerable amount of ants, too.

The list of species is as follows:

Familia *Myrmicidae*

*Myrmica rugulosa* NYLANDER, 1849

*Myrmica sabuleti* MEINERT, 1860

*Myrmica schencki* EMERY, 1896

*Diplorhoptrum fugax* (LATREILLE, 1798)

*Anergates atratulus* (SCHENCK, 1852)

*Leptothorax interruptus* (SCHENCK, 1852)

*Leptothorax nylanderi* (FOERSTER, 1850)

*Epimyrma goesswaldi* MENOZZI, 1931

*Tetramorium caespitum* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

*Tetramorium impurum* (FOERSTER, 1850)?

Familia: *Dolichoderidae*

*Dolichoderus quadripunctatus* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

*Tapinoma ambiguum* EMERY, 1925

Familia: *Formicidae*

*Plagiolepis vindobonensis* LOMNICKI, 1925

*Plagiolepis xene* STARCKE, 1936

*Camponotus vagus* (SCOPOLI, 1763)

*Camponotus fallax* (NYLANDER, 1850)

*Lasius fuliginosus* (LATREILLE, 1798)

*Lasius niger* (LINNAEUS, 1758)

*Lasius alienus* (FOERSTER, 1850)

*Lasius flavus* (FABRICIUS, 1781)

*Lasius carnolicus* MAYR, 1861

*Lasius mixtus* (NYLANDER, 1876)

*Cataglyphis aenescens* (NYLANDER, 1849)

*Formica fusca* LINNAEUS, 1758

*Formica rufibarbis* FABRICIUS, 1793

*Formica cunicularia* LATREILLE, 1798

*Formica trunctorum* FABRICIUS, 1904

*Formica pratensis* RETZIUS, 1783

*Formica sanguinea* LATREILLE, 1798

*Polyergus rufescens* (LATREILLE, 1798)

This list contains the elements of four ant species assemblages living in different types of patches or habitats and this fact explains the high species number: (1) The ants of sand dunes are thermophilous and xerotolerant species such as *Lasius alienus*, *Plagiolepis vindobonensis*, *Formica cunicularia*, *Cataglyphis aenescens* etc. (2) The ant species living in wind grooves with higher and denser vegetation are e.g. *Lasius niger*, *Formica rufibarbis*, *F. sanguinea*, *Myrmica schencki*, *Myrmica sabuleti*. (3) Typical ants of transitional areas are *Tetramorium caespitum* and *Tapinoma ambiguum* with the parasite of *Tetramorium* species, *Anergates atratulus*. (4) The last group of species consists of immigrants from the surrounding poplar and pine forests and forest edges, e.g. *Myrmica rugulosa*, *Leptothorax* spp., *Dolichoderus quadripunctatus*, *Camponotus* spp., *Formica pratensis*, *F. trunctorum* etc. The immigration of the species belonging to this group ensures the continuation of ant community succession.

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