

GROUND BEETLES (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE) DIVERSITY FROM RIPENING OILSEED RAPE FIELDS (BRASSICA NAPUS L.) IN SOUTHERN BULGARIA

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This study aimed at clarifying the species composition and ecological structure of carabids, associated with the oilseed rape during its ripening. Field work was carried out in 2017 and 2018. Pitfall traps (5 in each site) were set in 10 sampling sites in Thracian Lowland and Sarnena Sredna Gora Mts. Captured beetles belonged to 83 species and 34 genera, representing 11% of the species and 27% of the ground beetle genera occurring in Bulgaria. The most diverse was genus *Harpalus* (10 species), followed by the genera *Amara* (8 species), *Microlestes* (6 species) and *Brachinus* (5 species). Twelve species were new for the region of the Thracian Lowland: *Brachinus alexandri*, *Brachinus berytensis*, *Brachinus nigricornis*, *Calathus cinctus*, *Carterus dama*, *Harpalus fuscicornis*, *Harpalus subcylindricus*, *Microlestes maurus*, *Microlestes schroederi*, *Parophonus planicollis*, *Scybalicus oblongiusculus* and *Trechus cardioderus*. Two species were new for the region of the Sarnena Gora: *Carabus montivagus* and *Carabus coriaceus*. Seven species were new for the whole Sredna Gora Mts.: *Acupalpus meridianus*, *Amblystomus metallescens*, *Apotomus clypeonitens*, *Brachinus alexandri*, *Carabus granulatus*, *Ophonus sabulicola* and *Stenolophus abdominalis*. Genus *Scybalicus* was a new geographic record for Thracian Lowland; *Amblystomus* and *Apotomus* were new for Sredna Gora Mts. Seventeen life form categories were established (11 zoophagous and 6 mixophytophagous). The analysis of the life forms showed a slight predominance of the zoophages (46 species; 55,4%) over the mixophytophages (37 species; 44,6%). There were no constant species occurring in all sampling sites. *Poecilus cupreus* and *Microlestes minutulus* were found in all sampling sites except one.

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