

A short note on records of Psocodea (Insecta) at Manastirski Heights, SE Bulgaria

DILIAN GEORGIEV^{1, 2}

¹Department of General Animal Husbandry, Section Ecology and zoology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Trakia University – Stara Zagora, 6000 Stara Zagora, Bulgaria

²Department of Ecology and Environmental Conservation, Faculty of Biology, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, 24 Tzar Assen Str., 4000 Plovdiv, Bulgaria,
diliangeorgiev@uni-plovdiv.bg, dilyan.georgiev@trakia-uni.bg

Abstract. This short note reports on seven species of psocids (Insecta: Psocodea) from Manastirski Heights, SE Bulgaria. These were the first records of species from this insect group in this area.

Key words: psocids, species, distribution.

Introduction

The Manastirski Heights are a small hilly region in southeastern Bulgaria, surrounded by agricultural lands (Michev *et al.* 1980). To the north are the Sveti Iliyski Heights, and to the south lies Sakar Mountains, where studies on the species composition of Psocodea have previously been conducted (Georgiev 2025, 2026). Until now, no information was available on the psocid fauna of the Manastirski Heights. This short note presents the first records for the region.

Materials and Methods

The material was collected sporadically between 2022 and 2026 from the areas of Golyam Manastir, General Toshevo and Miladinovtsi villages. Psocids were collected by beating the vegetation and by sifting soil and detritus samples through a series of sieves with various mesh sizes. The material was preserved in 96% ethanol and examined in the laboratory. Species identifications were based mainly on Lienhard (1998).

Results and Discussion

A total of only seven species were registered:

Trogiidae

Lepinotus reticulatus Enderlein, 1904

Material examined: 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 13 18.2 E26 18 32.5, 247 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, from dry leaves of *Quercus* sp. on the ground, collected by sieving.

Stenopsocidae***Graphopsocus cruciatus* (Linnaeus, 1768)**

Material examined: 06.05.2022, W of Golyam Manastir vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, dry branches with leaves of *Quercus* sp., N42 12 45.0 E26 18 56.0, 285 m a. s. l., 1 ♂, collected by beating the vegetation; 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 13 18.2 E26 18 32.5, 247 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, from *Quercus* sp., collected by beating the vegetation; 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, N42 15 13.4 E26 20 22.7, 200 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, 1 ♂, from *Quercus* sp., collected by beating the vegetation; 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 14 55.1 E26 20 22.0, 220 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, 1 ♂, from *Paliurus spina-christi*, collected by beating the vegetation.

Ectopsocidae***Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978**

Material examined: 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 13 18.2 E26 18 32.5, 247 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, from *Quercus* sp., 1 ♀, from *Paliurus spina-christi*, collected by beating the vegetation; 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, N42 15 13.4 E26 20 22.7, 200 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, 1 ♂, from *Quercus* sp., collected by beating the vegetation; 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 14 55.1 E26 20 22.0, 220 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, 1 ♂, from *Paliurus spina-christi*, collected by beating the vegetation.

***Ectopsocus vachoni* Badonnel, 1945**

Material examined: 01.05.2024, General Toshevo vill., grasses near a road and abandoned yard, N42 13 32.9 E26 17 57.7, 241 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, from detritus and soil, collected by sieving.

Elipsocidae***Cuneopalpus cyanops* (Rostock, 1876)**

Material examined: 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., mixed *Quercus* sp., *P. nigra* forest, N42 13 14.7 E26 18 47.2, 232 m a. s. l., 1 ♂, 1 ♀, from *P. nigra*, collected by beating the vegetation.

Mesopsocidae***Mesopsocus unipunctatus* (Müller, 1764)**

Material examined: 01.05.2024, S of General Toshevo vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 13 18.2 E26 18 32.5, 247 m a. s. l., 1 ♂, from *Paliurus spina-christi*, collected by beating the vegetation.

Psocidae***Blaste conspurcata* (Rambur, 1842)**

Material examined: 18.10.2026, Miladinovtsi vill., bush area, N42 15 13.4 E26 20 22.7, 200 m a. s. l., 1 ♂, from *Quercus* sp., collected by beating the vegetation; 18.10.2026, S of Miladinovtsi vill., *Quercus* sp. forest, N42 14 55.1 E26 20 22.0, 220 m a. s. l., 1 ♀, from *Paliurus spina-christi*, collected by beating the vegetation.

References

- Georgiev, D. (2025) On the Psocodea (Insecta) of Sakar Mts (SE Bulgaria): new records and published data. *ZooNotes*, Supplement 17: 50–56.
- Georgiev, D. (2026) On the Psocodea (Insecta) fauna of the Sveti Iliyski Heights, South-East Bulgaria. *Bulletin of the Natural History Museum – Plovdiv*, 11: 31–34.
- Lienhard, C. (1998) *Psocoptères euro-méditerranéés*. Faune de France 83, Fédération Française des Sociétés de Sciences Naturelles, Paris, 517 pp.
- Michev, N., Vaptsarov, I., Mihaylov, Ts., & Kiradzhiev, S. (Eds.) (1980) *Geografski rechnik na Balgariya*. Nauka i izkustvo, 305 pp (in Bulgarian).