

First record of *Metreletus balcanicus* (Ulmer, 1920) from Greece (Ephemeroptera: Ameletidae)

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ABSTRACT: In this paper we present the first Greek record of *Metreletus balcanicus* (Ulmer, 1920), based on larval specimens collected in Thrace. Photo of the habitat and a map of the locality are provided.

Among the two known European members of the mayfly family Ameletidae, *Metreletus balcanicus* (Ulmer, 1920) is a rare but relatively widespread species known to inhabit small to medium watercourses ranging from the plains to foothill regions (KOVÁCS *et al.* 2003, REDING 2006). It prefers summer-dry temporary waters, and having a life cycle characterized by rapid winter larval growth and spring emergence period (BAUERNFEND & SOLDÁN 2012). According to the Fauna Europaea database, the species is present in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Luxemburg, French Mainland, Hungary, Poland, and the European part of Turkey (DE JONG *et al.* 2014). However, it was reported also from Croatia (VILENICA *et al.* 2015), Kosovo (XËRXA *et al.* 2019), North Macedonia (RIMCHESKA & VIDINOVA 2018), Slovakia (SOLDÁN 1978), Switzerland (REDING 2006) and Ukraine (MARTYNOV 2018), but not yet from Greece.

Material and methods

The specimens were collected by waternet, during a one week sampling in Bulgarian and Greek Thrace in February 2025. The specimens were preserved in 70% ethanol. Identification based on BAUERNFEND & SOLDÁN 2012, a Nicon SMZ 10 binocular was used for the study.

Results and Discussion

Six larvae of *Metreletus balcanicus* were found in Greek Thrace (Fig. 1). Collection data: Evros regional unit, Anatoliki Rodopi, Roussa, open brook along the road to M. Dereio, 360 m, N41.3106°, E26.0176°, 08.02.2025, leg. K. Földi, A. & D. Murányi. The closest known locality of the species is the Krumovitsa River in Bulgarian Rhodope (VIDINOVA 2006).

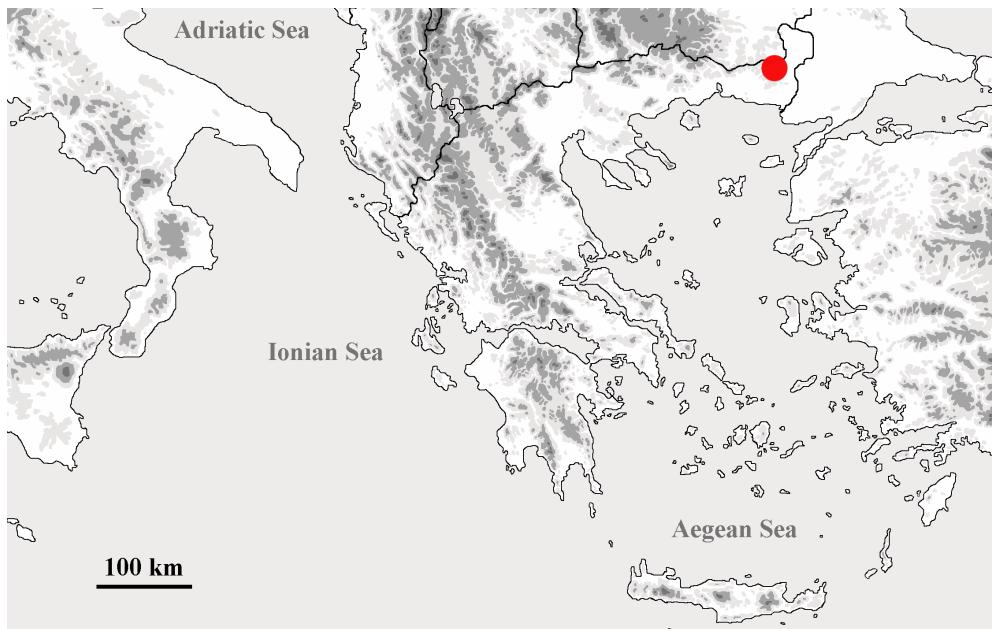


Fig. 1. The Greek locality (dot) of *Metreletus balcanicus* (Ulmer, 1920)



Fig. 2. Habitat of the species: open brook, Roussa, Anatoliki Rodopi (photo: D. Murányi)

The habitat is a small, intermittent and temporary stream, passing through a degraded pasture (Fig. 2), surrounded by open *Juniperus* bush and oak forest. The streambed is a mosaic of sandy patches, large stones and submerged mosses. The only other water insect found was a young larva of *Brachyptera* sp. (Plecoptera). Full length of the larvae are between 5 to 9 mm, and the species presumably emerged a month later.

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