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Short communication

## **ANTS (FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA) OF MT. GOČ (SERBIA)**

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Mt. Goč, south of the West Morava River near Vrnjačka Banja, is 200 *km* from Belgrade and 31 *km* from Kraljevo. One of the lowest mountains in Serbia, it belongs to the northern mountains of Kopaonik and extends about 10 *km* in west-east direction. Its highest peak is Krnja Jela (1127 *m*). It is made of serpentines. The springs of many streams and small rivers flowing into Zapadna Morava to the north and Rasina to the south are on Mt. Goč.

Goč is accessible from different sides: one main route leads to it from Kraljevo via Kamenica to the peak of Dobre Vode, and another from Vrnjačka Banja to Stanišinci. The surface of Goč is covered with woods of beech trees and fir trees but Goč- and other oak trees are also present. Wood strawberries and different curative plants can also be found on Goč. Goč is a very good pasture for bees. At Gvozdac there is an artificial pool.

Mt. Goč was chosen to be explored since there were no data on ants from that area. The investigations were carried out several years ago: neither dates nor specific localities are remembered. In several visits to Mt. Goč the author collected ants by chance and by looking for potential nests;

in total 16 species which belonged to three subfamilies (Ponerinae, Myrmicinae, Formicinae) (Tab. 1) were collected.

Table 1. - List of Ants of Mt. Goč.

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Subfam. **PONERINAE**

*Ponera coarctata* (Latreille) 1802

Subfam. **MYRMICINAE**

*Myrmica ruginodis* Nylander 1846

*Myrmecina graminicola* (Latreille) 1802

*Stenamma petiolatum* Emery 1897

*Aphenogaster finzii* Mueller 1913

*Diplorhoptum fugax* (Latreille) 1798

*Leptothorax* sp.

Subfam. **FORMICINAE**

*Lasius alienus* Foerster 1850

*Lasius fuliginosus* (Latreille) 1798

*Camponotus herculeanus* (L.) 1758

*Camponotus ligniperdus* (Latreille) 1802

*Camponotus vagus* (Scopoli) 1763

*Formica balcanina* Petrov & Collingwood 1993

*Formica cunicularia* Latreille 1798

*Formica fusca* L. 1758

*Formica polyctena* Foerster 1850

*Formica pratensis* Retzius 1783

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Although no species from the subfamily Dolichoderinae was found, species from the subfamily Dolichoderinae must be present there.

Comparing these results with earlier ones, *Ponera coarctata*, *Diplorhoptum fugax*, *Lasius alienus*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *Formica fusca*, *Formica pratensis* were found both in the forest region of Majdanpek (Živojinović 1950) and at Mt. Kopaonik Janković (1962) found *Ponera coarctata*, *Lasius alienus*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *Formica fusca* and *F. pratensis* at Mt. Kopaonik but they were also registered at Mt. Goč. Comparing these results with the results of Petrov (1986), species common to Mt. Goč (Serbia) and Mt. Jastrebac (Serbia) (*Lasius alienus*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *Formica cunicularia*, *Lasius alienus*, *Formica cunicularia* and *F. pratensis*) were found at Mt. Stara Planina too (Petrov & Mesaroš 1988). But these five localities must have many more species in common.

All species found at Mt. Goč were already known in the myrmecofauna of Serbia (Petrov 1986, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002a, 2002b, 2002c, Petrov and Mesaroš 1988, Petrov & Collingwood 1992).

Zoogeographically, the species found at Mt. Goč are mostly Palearctic (*Myrmica ruginodis*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *Formica cunicularia*), European (*Myrmecina graminicola*, *Camponotus ligniperdus*, *Formica polyctena*) and south European (*Formica balcanina*, *F. pratensis*). One Mediterranean (*Ponera coarctata*) and one Euroasian (*Camponotus vagus*) species were also found (Stitz 1939, Bernard 1968, Collingwood 1979, Seifert 1988, Paraschivescu 1993).

Although Mt. Goč is not a high mountain its area shows a complexity of abiotic and biotic factors which result in the formation of numerous types of habitats for ants. Therefore species that prefer open warm habitats (*Formica balcanina*, *F. cunicularia*) were found. Species which prefer more covered habitats (*Formica pratensis*) are also present, and since Mt. Goč is mostly forest region, species that inhabit edges of woods or woods (*Ponera coarctata*, *Myrmecina graminicola*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *C. vagus*, *Formica fusca*, *F. polyctena*) are the most numerous. Of the species found, *Lasius fuliginosus* can inhabit edges of woods, but it also tolerates humid habitats (Stitz 1939, Bernard 1968, Collingwood 1979).

This short contribution should show the current knowledge of myrmecofauna of this part of Serbia as a Balkan country. Myrmecofauna of the Balkans is surely very rich. Agosti & Collingwood (1987) registered 319 species in the Balkan myrmecofauna. But they also mentioned 72 ant species in other Balkan countries, which are still unregistered in Serbia, and 42 species which can be expected in the myrmecofauna of the Balkans.

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**МРАВИ (FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA) ГОЧА (СРБИЈА)**

## ИЗВОД

Мада Гоч није висока планина она показује комплексност абиотичких и биотичких фактора која формирају бројна станишта за мраве. Тако се тамо могу наћи врсте које преферирају топла и отворена станишта (*Formica balcanina*, *F. cunicularia*). Исто тако могу се наћи врсте које настањују затворенија станишта (*Formica pratensis*). Како је планина Гоч већином покривена шумама констатоване су и врсте које настањују ивице шума или саме шуме (*Ponera coarctata*, *Murmeicina graminicola*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *C. vagus*, *Formica fusca*, *F. polyctena*) које су биле и најбројније. Од нађених врста, врста *Lasius fuliginosus* може настањивати ивице шума али толерише и влажна станишта (Stitz 1939, Bernard 1968, Collingwood 1979).

Зоогеографски, врсте нађене на Гочу су већином палеарктичке (*Murmeicina ruginodis*, *Camponotus herculeanus*, *Formica cunicularia*), европске (*Murmeicina graminicola*, *Camponotus ligniperdus*, *Formica polyctena*) и јужноевропске (*Formica balcanina*, *F. pratensis*). Нађена је и једна медитеранска врста (*Ponera coarctata*) као и једна евроазијска (*Camponotus vagus*) (Stitz 1939, Bernard 1968, Collingwood 1979, Seifert 1988, Paraschivescu 1993).

Овај кратак прилог је требао да прикаже тренутно познавање мирмекофауне овог дела Србије као балканске земље. Мирмекофауна Балкана је сигурно врло богата на шта указују подаци Agosti & Collingwood (1987).