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Short communication

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE MYRMECOFAUNA (HYMENOPTERA,
FORMICIDAE) OF THE AREA OF VLASINSKO JEZERO
(VLASINA LAKE) (SERBIA)**

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The Vlasinsko Jezero reservoir is situated in southeastern Serbia, in the central part of the plateau at an altitude of 1213m. Formed after the construction of the dam on the Vlasina River at the place where it flows from Vlasinsko Blato peat bog, this reservoir has many specific characteristics. As well, there are many floating islands in the reservoir.

The climate in the region is typically continental. The reservoir moderates the temperature and increases the average humidity and precipitation (Stanković & Laušević 1997). The winter period is long with heavy frosts usually during January. The precipitation peaks in May and June (Stanojević *et al.* 1990).

Hydrologically Vlasinsko Jezero has been quite well investigated, but entomologically there is much to be done. Herein is the first information about myrmecofauna in that area. In the area of Vlasinsko Jezero ants were collected sporadically and by searching for potential nests in summer 2004. Identification was made using adequate keys, primarily those of Agosti and Collingwood (1987a, 1987b). In the area of Vlasinsko Lake 18 species belonging to two subfamilies (Myrmicinae, Formicinae) were collected (Tab. 1).

Tab. 1. List of ant species collected in the area of Vlasinsko Jezero.

Subfam. **MYRMICINAE***Manica rubida* Latreille 1802*Myrmica rubra* (L.) 1758*Myrmica ruginodis* Nylander 1846*Tetramorium caespitum* (L.) 1758*Tetramorium* sp.Subfam. **FORMICINAE***Lasius alienus* Foerster 1850*Lasius brunneus* (Latreille) 1798*Lasius flavus* (F.) 1781*Lasius* sp.*Formica balcanina* Petrov & Collingwood 1993*Formica cunicularia* Latreille 1798*Formica fusca* L. 1758*Formica glauca* Ruzsky 1895*Formica pratensis* Retzius 1783*Formica rufa* L. 1758*Formica rufibarbis* Fabricius 1793*Formica sanguinea* Latreille 1798

Since ants were collected only sporadically, no species from the Ponerinae and Dolichodrinae subfamilies were found, although they are expected to be present in the Vlasina area too. More species from the Myrmicinae and Formicinae subfamilies must also exist in the myrmecofauna of that area.

It is interesting that *Myrmica rubra* in the area of Vlasinsko Jezero was the most frequently found species. This species was almost everywhere, even on the floating islands.

According to these investigations, the myrmecofauna of the area of Vlasinsko Lake consists of Holarctic (*Lasius alienus*, *Formica fusca*), Palearctic (*Myrmica rubra*, *M. ruginodis*, *Tetramorium caespitum*, *Lasius brunneus*, *L. flavus*, *Formica cunicularia*, *F. rufibarbis*, *F. sanguinea*), European (*Manica rubida*, *Tetramorium caespitum*, *Formica rufa*, *F. rufibarbis*), south European (*Formica balcanina*) and Eurasian (*Formica pratensis*) species.

Ant diversity in the area of Vlasinsko Lake is shown by species living in different habitats: some species prefer open, warm habitats (*Tetramorium caespitum*, *Formica cunicularia*, *F. rufibarbis*), some prefer more covered habitats (*Myrmica rubra*, *Formica pratensis*), and others which tolerate humid habitats (*Lasius flavus*) were also found (Tab. 1). Although

the species *Ponera coarctata*, *Aphenogaster subterranea*, *Myrmecina graminicola*, *Leptothorax nylanderii*, *Prenolepis nitens* and *Camponotus truncatus* which tolerate living on the edge of or in woods (Stitz 1939, Bernard 1968, Collingwood 1979) were not found, they too are surely present in the myrmecofauna of the Vlasina area.

This was just the beginning of investigations into ants of the area of Vlasinsko Jezero and southern Serbia. To get complete information about the myrmecofauna of this area, more intensive investigations and collecting of ants should be done, since the myrmecofauna of this region must be richer than presented. Therefore, these results must be considered only as preliminary.

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ПРИЛОГ ПОЗНАВАЊУ МИРМЕКОФАУНЕ (FORMICIDAE, HYMENOPTERA) ПОДРУЧЈА ВЛАСИНСКОГ ЈЕЗЕРА (СРБИЈА)

ИЗВОД

Подручје Власинског језера је истраживано и у ранијим енто-молошким радовима, али до сада није спецификовано које су врсте мравца нађене у том региону. Током истраживања у току 2004. године, по први пут је констатовано 18 врста мравца, из потпородица Myrmicinae и Formicinae, за ово подручје.

Интересантно је да је на подручју Власинског језера најфреквентнија врста била *Myrmica rubra* која је налажена на многим местима, чак и на путујућим острвима.