

***Stenoptilia pneumonanthès* (Büttner, 1880), (Lepidoptera, Pterophoridae), the first record in Romania.**

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Abstract. *Stenoptilia pneumonanthès* este pentru prima dată semnalată în România, de la Râscruci, Judeţul Cluj. Indivizii au fost colectaţi din teren sub formă de larve şi crescuţi în laborator. Determinarea s-a făcut cu ajutorul armăturii genitale.

Abstract. *Stenoptilia pneumonanthès* is recorded for the first time in Romania, at Râscruci, Cluj county. The individuals were collected from the field as caterpillars and raised in a laboratory. The identification was made on the basis of genitalia.

Keywords: *Stenoptilia pneumonanthès*, Pterophoridae, first record, Cluj county

The species was encountered at Luna de Jos, Dabaca and Borsa, Cluj county (**Fig.1**) from 2011 to 2012 when I have been studying the biology of *Maculinea alcon xerofila* species, respectively *M. alcon alcon*. In order to observe the behaviour of *Maculinea* caterpillars, I have collected *Gentiana cruciata* from the field, containing the eggs of the butterfly. To our surprise, among the caterpillars of *Maculinea*, there were other tiny, green larvae inside the buds that became chrysalids in 1-2 days. From these chrysalids, *Stenoptilia pneumonanthès* individuals emerged, from the Pterophoridae family, a species not yet documented in Romania. Species identification was performed with the help of the female genitalia (**Fig.2**).

Stenoptilia pneumonanthès has localized populations. The species has been encountered in humid meadows where *Gentiana pneumonanthès*, the host plant, grows with *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis* and *Molinia caerulea*. *S. pneumonanthès* can be encountered also in dry meadows (**Fig.3**), on sandy grounds, with scrubs of hawthorn and blackthorn, where one can find *G. cruciata* (**Fig.4**) (GIELIS 1996).

Diagnosis. The wingspan is 17-22 mm. The wings are grey-brownish. The forewings show one black dot. The first lobe of the forewing shows a dark brown longitudinal line, and on the second lobe there are several black scales, but without forming a well contoured design (FAZEKAS 1997) (**Fig.5**). The larvae are green and show more longitudinal white lines (**Fig.6**).

S. pneumonanthès resembles very much with *S. graphodactyla*. The differences between the two species is observed on the female genitalia. The female genitalia of *S. pneumonanthès* has the ostium excavated deeper than in the species *S. graphodactyla* (**Fig.7**) (GIELIS 1996). Males genitalia of the two species is very similar.

Distribution. In the northern part of Central and West Europe, and the south part of Scandinavia (GIELIS 1996, FAZEKAS 2006). The populations from Romania represent until present the eastern limit of the species territory.

Biology. The moths fly at dawn and during daytime, from the end of June to September, more specific, the first half of September (GIELIS, 1996, RAZOWSKI, 1988). The trophic basis is represented by *Gentiana pneumonanthe* (BEIRNE 1954, GOZMANY 1962, GOZMANY 1963, EMMET 1979, BUSZKO 1986, GIBEAUX 1989) and *Gentiana cruciata* (Gibeaux 1989, Gielis 1996).

The eggs are laid in July on buds and flowers. The larvae feed inside the buds, and the hole entrance hole denotes their presence (GIELIS 1996). On the host plant one can encounter simultaneously the eggs of *Stenoptilia* and of *Maculinea alcon alcon* or *M. alcon xerophila*.

The caterpillars develop during July-August. Pupal period is about two weeks (Fig.8) (GIELIS, 1996). Larvae pupate usually on the host plant's stem or the back leaf (Fig.9).

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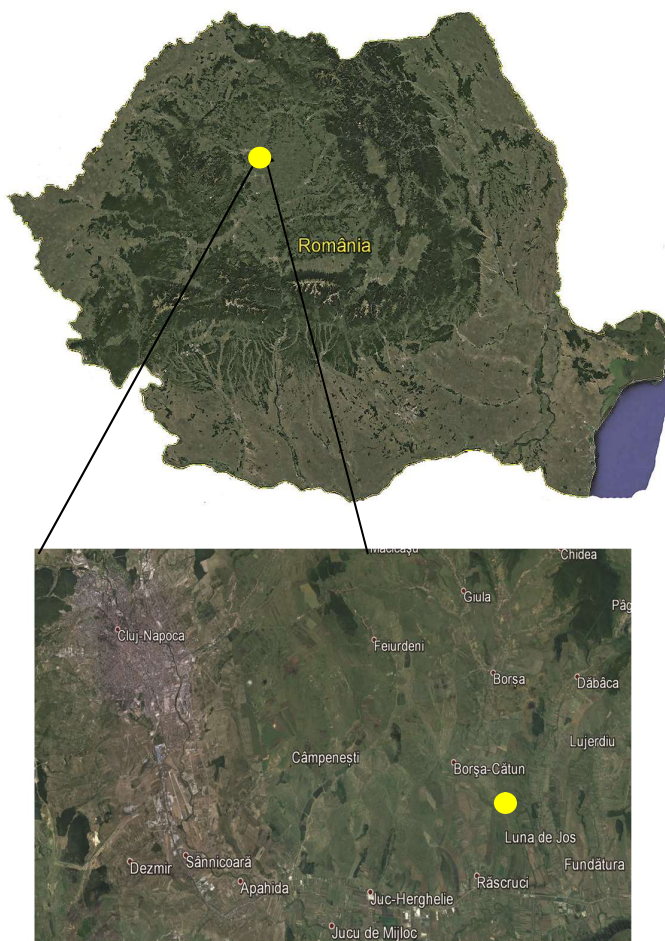


Fig.1. The location where the species was recorded



Fig. 2 . Genitalia from females



Fig. 3. Habitat of the species
Stenoptilia pneumonanthos

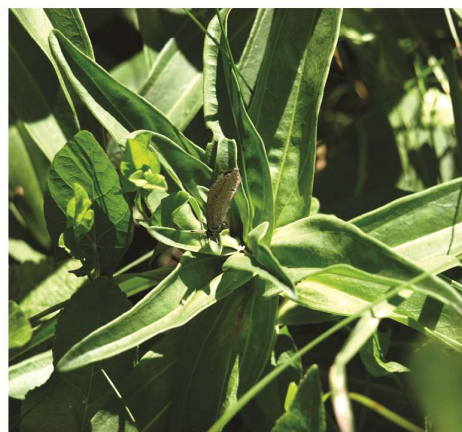


Fig. 4. The host plant *Gentiana cruciata*

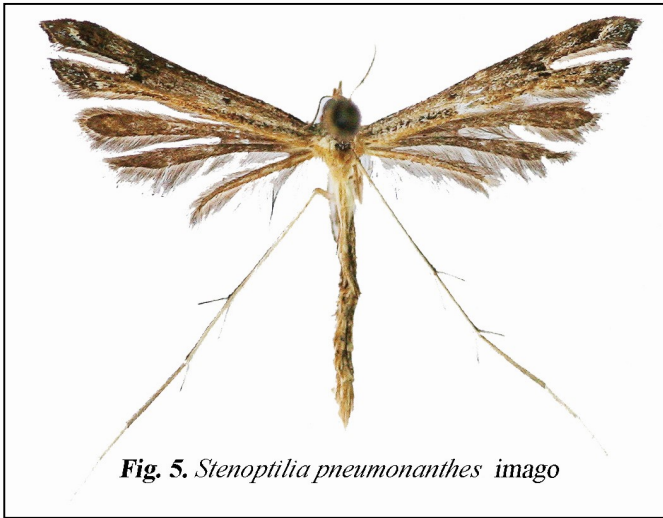


Fig. 5. *Stenoptilia pneumonanthos* imago



Fig.6. Characteristic white stripes of the larvae

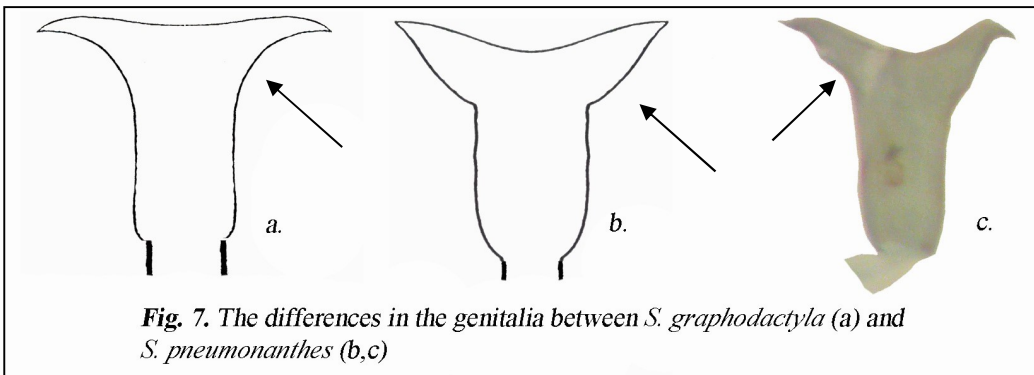


Fig. 7. The differences in the genitalia between *S. graphodactyla* (a) and *S. pneumonanthos* (b,c)



Fig. 8. Chrysalis of *S. pneumonanthos*



Fig. 9. Chrysalis attached to the back leaf of *G. cruciata* in hanging position