



Conference Abstract

On the Sicilian cave dwelling species of Auchenorrhyncha (Insecta, Rhynchota)

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Abstract

Up to now, troglobitic Auchenorrhyncha identified for Europe outside of the Macaronesian region include two species belonging to the Cixiidae family. In this context, Sicily is a very interesting island because there are both limestone caves and lava tubes that allow the presence of at least two obligately cave dwelling species belonging to *Ibleocixius* D'Urso & Grasso 2009 and *Cixius* Latreilles 1804 genera. *Ibleocixius* is a troglobitic genus, endemic from Sicily with a unique species, *Ibleocixius dunae* D'Urso & Grasso 2009, living in a limestone cave of South-eastern Sicily. Recently, a new troglobitic taxon (under description) has been found in some lava tubes on the Etna volcano; it belongs to the genus *Cixius*, to the *C. pallipes-wagneri* group. Both species live on the roots that penetrate the caves. They have a different palaeogeographic history. *Ibleocixius dunae* is a paleoendemic taxon showing a strong degree of troglomorphy, and the genus differs from *Cixius* and related taxa in the different arrangement of several characters which are also present in other taxa. *Cixius* n.sp. is a neoendemic taxon showing morphological characters close to those of the epigeal species *Cixius wagneri* (Holzinger et al. 2003).

Keywords

Troglobitic species, Cixiidae, limestone caves, lava tubes, Sicily

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References

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