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First record of *Spilomena mocsaryi* Kohl, 1898 (Hymenoptera) from Malta with a check-list of Maltese Crabronidae

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Until now the Crabronidae fauna of the Maltese Islands comprised 45 species in 5 subfamilies. Recently, one of us (EX) while studying insect visitors on flowers of *Capparis orientalis* found a new crabronid species from Malta, *Spilomena mocsaryi* Kohl, 1898. The genus *Spilomena* includes 20 species in the Palaearctic Region and eight species in Europe, all with minute body length (2–3.5 mm). *Spilomena* species nest in various hollows in old wood or in walls, etc. The larva feeds on Thysanoptera or Psyllidae (BITSCH *et al.*, 2007). The genus was revised by DOLLFUSS (1986); identification key, descriptions and distribution for all European species are given by BITSCH *et al.* (2007). Until now, only *Spilomena troglodytes* Vander Linden, 1829 was known from the Maltese Islands (SCHMID-EGGER, 2003). A check-list of the 46 species of Crabronidae so far recorded from the Maltese Islands is provided. Some species occur in Malta in a subspecies different from those found in Italy or North African (often the distribution range includes both Malta and Sicily). The state of some of these subspecies may be problematic, because they may represent valid species or are conspecific with the nominate form. However, we use the subspecies names here without giving a statement about the state of the taxon.

Spilomena mocsaryi Kohl, 1898

Material examined: Maltese Islands, Gozo, Xaghra, 30.vi.2015, 2 ♂♂ on flowers of *Capparis orientalis*, leg. E. Xuereb (coll. Mifsud & Schmid-Egger).

Notes: *Spilomena mocsaryi* is widespread in southern and central Europe extending its range to Central Asia and Israel (BITSCH *et al.*, 2007) and in the United Arab Emirates (SCHMID-EGGER, 2011). It was also recorded from the nearby island of Sicily (SCHMID-EGGER, 2003).

Recognition: *Spilomena mocsaryi* is readily distinguished from other species by the combination of the following morphological characters: whitish-yellow mandible with narrow light brown apex (in both males and females) and a deep medial emargination on the clypeal margin (only in males). The apex of the mesoscutum in females is markedly striate. *Spilomena troglodytes* has the apical third of the mandibular apex dark brown.

Checklist of the Crabronidae recorded from the Maltese Islands.

The taxonomy of the check-list follows that of BITSCH *et al.* (1993, 1997, 2001). References for all published records pertaining to the Maltese Islands are included for each species.

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Subfamily Astatinae Lepeletier de Saint Fargeau, 1845

Astata boops (Schrank 1781) [recorded by ALFKEN (1929), ERLANDSSON (1972), VALLETTA (1978) and SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Astata costae A. Costa 1867 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Astata sicula Kohl, 1884 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Subfamily Bembicinae Latreille, 1802

Ammatomus coarctatus (Spinola, 1808) [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Bembecinus tridens (Fabricius 1781) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Bembix oculata Panzer, 1801 [recorded by ERLANDSSON (1972), VALLETTA (1978) as *Bembex oculata*, SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Stizus pubescens Klug, 1835 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Stizus ruficornis (Forster, 1771) [recorded by VALLETTA (1971), SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Subfamily Crabroninae Latreille, 1802

Belomicrus italicus A. Costa 1871 [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Crossocerus elongatulus trinacrius de Beaumont, 1959 [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003) and SCHEMBRI (1990)].

Ectemnius confinis (Walker, 1871) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Ectemnius continuus sulphureipes F. Smith, 1856 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Ectemnius hypsae (De Stefani, 1894) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Ectemnius sexcinctus (Fabricius, 1775) [recorded by VALLETTA (1978) under its synonym *Crabo* (sic) *zonatus* Panzer, 1797, and SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Larra anathema (Rossi, 1790) [recorded by VALLETTA (1978) and SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Lestica clypeata (Schreber, 1759) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Liris agilis (Smith, 1856) [recorded SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Liris niger (Fabricius, 1775) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) as *L. nigra* (misspelling)]

Liris festinans praetermissus (Richards, 1928) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) as *L. praetermissa*; originally described by Richards as *Notogonia praetermissa* Richards, 1928]

Miscophus bicolor Jurine, 1807 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Miscophus helveticus Kohl, 1883 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Oxybelus dissectus Dahlbom, 1845 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Pison atrum (Spinola, 1808) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Solierella compedita (Piccioli, 1969) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex costae De Stefani, 1882 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex fugax (Radoszkowski, 1877) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex nitidior Beaumont, 1940 [recorded by VALLETTA (1971) as *T. nitidus* (Spinola, 1805) and SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex nitidus (Spinola, 1805) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex panzeri (Vander Linden, 1829) [recorded by VALLETTA (1971) and SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tachysphex unicolor (Panzer, 1806) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Tracheliodes quinquenotatus (Jurine, 1807) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]

Trypoxylon attenuatum Smith, 1851 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Trypoxylon kolazyi Kohl, 1893 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Subfamily Pemphredoninae Dahlbom, 1835

- Diodontus minutus* (Fabricius, 1793) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]
Passaloeocus pictus Ribaut, 1952 [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]
Pemphredon lethifer (Shuckard, 1837) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]
Psenulus pallipes (Panzer, 1798) [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]
Spilomena mocsaryi Kohl, 1928 [recorded in the present work]
Spilomena troglodytes (Vander Linden, 1829) [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

Subfamily Philanthinae Latreille, 1802

- Cerceris arenaria* (Linnaeus, 1758) [recorded by ERLANDSSON (1972), VALLETTA (1978) and SCHEMBRI (1990)]
Cerceris media Klug, 1835 [recorded by SCHEMBRI (1990)]
Cerceris quadricincta (Panzer, 1799) [recorded by VALLETTA (1971), SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]
Cerceris sabulosa (Panzer, 1799) [recorded by VALLETTA (1971), SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]
Cerceris lunata funerea A. Costa 1869 [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]
Philanthus coarctatus siculus Giordani Soika, 1944 [recorded by SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]. SCHEMBRI (1990) recorded *Philanthus raptor* Lepeletier, 1845 but this species is currently treated as a synonym of *P. coarctatus*, and the populations of Malta and Sicily belong to subspecies *coarctatus siculus*.
Philanthus triangulum (Fabricius 1775) [recorded by ALFKEN (1929), VALLETTA (1971), SCHEMBRI (1990) and SCHMID-EGGER (2003)]

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