

MIENIS, H.K.:

Two new records of land snails attacked by glow-worms - Két új feljegyzés szárazföldi csigákat támadó szentjánosbogarakról

Abstract: Two new records of land snails attacked by glow-worms are reported from Israel. Adult females of Nyctophila/?/syriaca were found preda-ting on juvenile Bulirinus labrosus, while an un-identified larva of a glow-worm was observed feeding on Eopolita protensa jebusitica.

The snail-eating habits of glow-worms, adults and larvae, are well-known. WILD & LAWSON /1937/, for example, re-ported predation by the glow-worm Lampyrus noctiluca on a num-ber of land snails in England, while O'DONALD /1968/ discussed the role of glow-worms in the natural selection of a Cepaea nemoralis population in England. Other records are scattered throughout the literature.

Although glow-worms are quite common in Israel, ac-tual records of predation on land snails are rather scarce. Most recently MIENIS /1975/ described how a glow-worm larva attacked estivating Sphincterochila cariosa /OLIVIER, 1804/.

Recently two additional cases were observed. On February 12th, 1974, the author found several female glow-worms and a large number of living and dead Bulirinus labrosus /OLI-VIER, 1804/ under a rock near Ma'ale HaHarisha, Judean Hills. On closer inspection all the adult snails were found to be alive, while a large part of the juveniles consisted of empty shells only.

A sample of both snails and glow-worms, which were indentified as most probably belonging to Nyctophila syriaca, was taken and isolated in a glass vial. Under these conditions the glow-worms were seen to attack and devour only juvenile Bulirinus labrosus; snails over 2 cm were not touched.

The second case of predation was observed on February 15th, 1977, in the valley of Nahal Amud, Galilee. An unidentified larva of a glow-worm was found feeding on an adult Eopolita protensa jebusitica /ROTH, 1855/. The larva filled the entire last whorl of the shell while it was eating from the snail.

More records of snails attacked by glow-worms may be expected in the future. Next to birds, some desert rodents and several Carabid-beetles, they are probably the most active predators of land-snails in Israel.

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Összefoglalás

A cirben leirt eseményt Izraelből jelentik. Kifejlődött nőstény Nyctophila?/syriaca-kat találtak, amint fiatal Buliminus labrosus-on élősködtek, míg egy szentjánosbogár nem azonosított lárváját akkor figyelték meg, amikor egy Eopolita protensa jebusitica-n táplálkozott.

References

MIENIS, H.K./1975/: Two new records of land snails attacked by glow-worms. Basteria, 39/3-6/: 61-62. - O'DONALD, P./1968/: Natural selection by glow-worms in a population of Cepaea nemoralis. Nature, 217: 194. - WILD, S.V. & LAWSON, A.K./1937/: Enemies of the land and freshwater mollusca of the British Isles. J. Conch., London. 20: 351-361.

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