

## First record of *Blacus (Blacus) forticornis* Haeselbarth, 1973 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Blacinae) from Turkey

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**Abstract:** The parasitic wasp *Blacus (Blacus) forticornis* Haeselbarth, 1973 (Hymenoptera: Braconidae: Blacinae) is reported as a new record for the fauna of Turkey. The specimen of the species was collected by sweeping from an alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) field in Erzurum Province.

**Key words:** *Blacus (Blacus) forticornis*, Blacini, Blacinae, Braconidae, alfalfa, Erzurum, new record, Turkey

Blacinae constitutes a rather small cosmopolitan subfamily of the family Braconidae, which includes 14 genera and approximately 215 species distributed worldwide (Yu et al., 2012; Çetin Erdoğan, 2010; Güçlü, 2011). Most of them are endoparasites of larval Coleoptera and Mecoptera (van Achterberg, 1990).

The subfamily Blacinae is represented in Turkey by 4 subgenera in the genus *Blacus*, namely *Blacus* Nees, *Ganychorus* Haliday, *Hysterobolus* Viereck, and *Neoblacus* Ashmead (Çetin Erdoğan, 2010). Thus far, 21 species of Blacinae have been reported from Turkey (Çetin Erdoğan and Beyarslan, 2005; Çetin Erdoğan, 2010; Güçlü, 2011). Among the 4 subgenera, species of the subgenus *Blacus* are more common in Turkey (Çetin Erdoğan, 2010).

*Blacus* species are common in damp habitats such as decaying vegetable substrates; small and mobile (perhaps predatory and fungivorous) beetle larvae may prove to be central to their host range (Shaw and Huddleston, 1991).

The first record of *Blacus (Blacus) forticornis* Haeselbarth, 1973 from Turkey is presented here. *Blacus forticornis* is generally considered to be a rare species (van Achterberg, 1988).

**Material:** Erzurum Province, İspir, Köprüköy, 39°58'1"N, 41°52'17"E, 1602 m a.s.l., 11.09.2012, swept on *Medicago sativa*, leg. Ö. Şahsuvaroğlu, 1♀.

**Identification:** The species is easy to recognize among the members of the Palaearctic subgenus *Blacus* by the following combination of characters: 3–6 segments of antenna of the female widely truncate apically, very robust; scutellar sulcus smooth or with some indistinct rugae beside mediolongitudinal carina (van Achterberg, 1988).

**Distribution:** In Europe and western Palaearctic, known from Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, Poland, Russia, and United Kingdom (Yu et al., 2012)

With current knowledge, *B. forticornis* is known only from a single locality in Erzurum Province, eastern Anatolia. This part of Turkey is characterized by markedly eco-geographic continental or montane characters (Casale and Taglienti, 1999). A single female specimen was collected from an alfalfa (*Medicago sativa* L.) field. *Populus* sp., *Salix* sp., and *Ulmus* sp. are other plant species in the vicinity of the alfalfa field.

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