

Cicadellidae of the forests of Etna (Hemiptera, Homoptera, Auchenorrhyncha)*

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ABSTRACT - The forests of Etna, ranging from approximately 600 m to 2000 m a.s.l., occupy a great part of the "Mediterranean Basal belt" and of the "Mountain-Mediterranean belt". The main plant species that form true monophytic forests on Etna are: *Quercus ilex*; *Q. pubescens* s. l., *Q. cerris*, *Castanea sativa*, *Pinus laricio*, *Betula aetnensis* and *Fagus sylvatica*. 107 species of Cicadellidae, belonging to 10 subfamilies, were found both on monophytic and poliphytic forests of Etna. The forests where the highest number of species was found were *Quercus pubescens* s. l. and *Castanea sativa*. They are followed by *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus ilex*, *Pinus laricio*, *Betula aetnensis* and *Quercus cerris*. As far as the faunistic composition of Cicadellidae is concerned, the most similar forestal environments were those of *Quercus pubescens* s.l. and *Castanea sativa*. This similarity is explained by the relationship between *Castanea* and *Quercus* and with the artificial origin of the Etna chestnut woods, which have often taken the place of oak woods, especially those of *Quercus pubescens* s.l., that once were more widespread. Mixed forests did not show a characteristic fauna of their own: the species found were either those of the corresponding pure forests or polyphagous species, or monophagous and oligophagous species on plants widespread on the volcano.

Analyzing the geographic distribution pattern of the species found, it is clear that the Cicadellidae living in the forests of Etna are mainly thermophilic, the major portion being typically Mediterranean species; there are also cool climate elements which characterize high altitude forest formations that are suitable refuge area for them. The number of Sicilian endemic elements is very high (8), one of them, *Kybos aetnicola* Wagn. is an exclusive inhabitant of the forests of Etna.

IZVLEČEK - Gozdovi na Etni segajo od približno 600 do 2000 m in pokrivajo velik del "Osnovnega mediteranskega pasu" in "Gorskega mediteranskega pasu". Glavne vrste dreves, ki tvorijo na Etni monofitske gozdove so: *Quercus ilex*; *Q. pubescens* s. l., *Q. cerris*, *Castanea sativa*, *Pinus laricio*, *Betula aetnensis* in *Fagus sylvatica*. V enovrstnih in mešanih gozdovih na Etni so našli 107 vrst škrlatkov iz 10 poddružin družine Cicadellidae. Največ vrst sta avtorici ugotovili v gozdovih puhatega hrasta *Quercus pubescens* s.l. in kostanja *Castanea sativa*. Temu sledijo sestoji dreves *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus ilex*, *Pinus laricio*, *Betula aetnensis* and *Quercus cerris*. Po sestavi favne cikadelid so najpodobnejši sestoji puhatega hrasta in kostanja, kar avtorici povezujeta s povezanostjo teh sestojev in z umetnim nadomeščanjem hrasta s plemenitim kostanjem. Mešani gozdovi nimajo posebne favne, značilne le za to območje.

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