

***Dysgonia algira*, a new species for the Belgian fauna (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)**

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Abstract. One specimen of *Dysgonia algira* (Linnaeus, 1767) was observed in a light trap at Drongen (Belgium, East Flanders) on 30 June 2006, leg. G. Spanoghe. This is the first observation of this species in Belgium. The distribution and biology of this species are briefly discussed.

Samenvatting. *Dysgonia algira*, een nieuwe soort voor de Belgische fauna (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

Een exemplaar van *Dysgonia algira* (Linnaeus, 1767) werd aangetroffen in een lichtval te Drongen (Oost-Vlaanderen) op 30 juni 2006, leg. G. Spanoghe. Het is de eerste maal dat deze soort uit België wordt vermeld. De algemene verspreiding van deze soort en haar biologie worden kort besproken.

Résumé. *Dysgonia algira*, une espèce nouvelle pour la faune belge (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

Un exemplaire de *Dysgonia algira* (Linnaeus, 1767) fut trouvé dans un piège lumineux à Drongen (Flandre orientale) le 30 juin 2006, leg. G. Spanoghe. Il s'agit de la première mention de cette espèce en Belgique. Sa distribution et biologie sont brièvement discutées.

Key words: *Dysgonia algira* – Belgium – faunistics – first record.

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On 30 June 2006 a specimen of *Dysgonia algira* (Linnaeus, 1767) was found in a light trap at Drongen (East Flanders), leg. G. Spanoghe (fig. 1). This is the first record of this species from Belgium.

In North-West Europe, *D. algira* is a rare immigrant. Ten records are known from Great Britain (Waring & Townsend 2003: 392), and only 1 from the Netherlands, about 40 years ago, when R. Postel found a specimen in a light trap at Goes (Zeeland) on 07 July 1965 (van Rooijen 2000). In Germany, it was first recorded as a caterpillar, found on *Salix caprea* on 23 August 1959 at Unterbränd in der Baar, leg. H. Herrmann. In the period from 01 July 1992 to 21 August 1993 no less than 7 records are known. This could suggest that *D. algira* is capable of surviving mild winters at more northern latitudes (Steiner 1997). In France, the species is distributed as far north as central France, but it reaches more northern latitudes along the Atlantic coast (Goater *et al.* 2003: 64).

The species has a Mediterranean-Asiatic distribution. It is widespread and common in South Europe, North Africa, the Near and Middle East till Kyrgyzstan (Goater *et al.* 2003: 65). It also occurs in Central Europe, e.g. Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia (Karsholt & van Nieukerken 2005), but mainly as an immigrant.

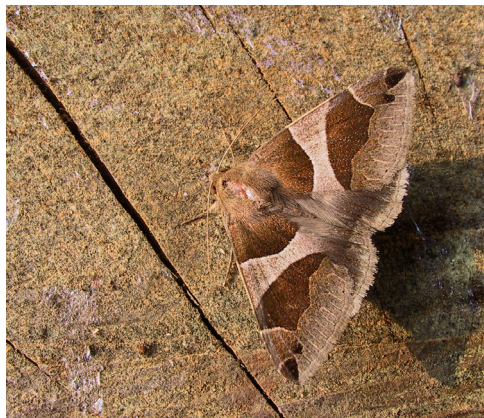


Fig. 1. *Dysgonia algira* (Linnaeus, 1767), Belgium, Oost-Vlaanderen, Drongen, 30.VI.2006, leg. G. Spanoghe (Foto: G. Spanoghe).

Another *Dysgonia* species, *D. torrida* (Guenée, 1852), sometimes reaches the northern Mediterranean area, mainly the Iberian and Balkan Peninsulæ. This species resembles *D. algira* very much and a reliable identification can only be achieved when the genitalia are checked.

The caterpillar lives mainly on *Rubus fruticosus* (Goater *et al.* 2003: 65), but it has also been reported from several other hostplants like *Genista*, *Lythrum*, *Parietaria*, *Punica*, *Ricinus*, and *Salix* (Hacker 1989). The moths fly in two generations a year: May–June and July–September, though in southern regions also a third generation might occur.

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank G. Spanoghe for the permission to reproduce the colour photograph of the new species for the Belgian fauna.

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