

The first records in Norway of *Myrmica specioides* Bondroit, 1918 and *Formica cunicularia* Latreille, 1798 (Hymenoptera, Formicidae)

TORSTEIN KVAMME & CEDRIC A. COLLINGWOOD

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Myrmica specioides Bondroit, 1918 and *Formica cunicularia* Latreille, 1798 are recorded in Norway for the first time. Both species were found in 2008 at Jeløya, Østfold County in South-Eastern Norway. A total of 54 outdoor-living ant species are now known to occur in Norway.

Key words: Hymenoptera, Formicidae, *Myrmica specioides*, *Formica cunicularia*, Norway.

Torstein Kvamme, Norwegian Institute of Forest and Landscape, P. O. Box 115, NO-1431 Ås, Norway.
E-mail: torstein.kvamme@skogoglandskap.no

Cedric A. Collingwood, 18 Milton Street, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD 23 2ED, U. K.

Introduction

A total of 52 ant species have hitherto been recorded in Norway (Collingwood 1979, Kvamme 1982, 1999, Kvamme & Lønnve 2008). The number was considered to be 53 species until 2006 when the status of *Myrmica microrubra* Seifert, 1993 was changed from species level to a microgyne form of *Myrmica rubra* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Steiner et al. 2006). Including the two species presented here the total number of outdoor living ant species recorded from Norway is at the present 54. The real number is probably closer to 70 species compared to the number of species recorded in Sweden (Douwes 1995).

The records

Samples of both species were collected by the authors 28 May 2008 on Jeløya, Moss municipality (EIS 19), Østfold County. The UTM coordinates are in agreement with the WGS84 system.

One colony of *Myrmica specioides* Bondroit,

1918 was found close to the beach at Reierbukta (UTM32 N6588400E592000). The habitat was a sun-exposed, warm, sandy beach-meadow with rather low and partly sparse vegetation (Figure 1). As usual only the entrance hole was visible.

Formica cunicularia Latreille, 1798 was found only 200–300 meters from the *M. specioides* locality, but closer to Alby. One colony was close to an old stone wall (Figure 2), while the other colony was found on grassland nearby, at the edge of a grain field. The two records was done close to UTM32 N6588400E591500.

Discussion and conclusions

M. specioides is a true European species, distributed from Portugal to the Black Sea and from the northern part of the Balkan Peninsula to SW Britain, Denmark and SW Sweden. The nearest record to Norway is in Blekinge district in southern Sweden (Douwes 1995). In general it is a rare species in Sweden and the first record was made in 1979 (Douwes 1983). In addition to