

CONTRIBUTION TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF EDAPHIC AND SUBTERRANEAN COLEOPTERA FROM THE CLOȘANI KARSTIC AREA (OLTENIA, ROMANIA) – WITH SPECIAL REFERENCES ON THE MESOVOID SHALLOW SUBSTRATUM

EUGEN NITZU, VICTORIA ILIE

Les auteurs présentent les résultats des recherches effectuées sur la faune de coléoptères édaphiques et souterraines de la région karstique de Cloșani (Olténie, Roumanie). Ces résultats sont concrétisés dans l'identification de 70 espèces (récoltées pour la plupart du milieu souterrain superficiel). À la liste de la faune on ajoute des données concernant la chorologie et les biotopes dans lesquels ont été signalées les espèces.

1. INTRODUCTION

The geographic situation of Oltenia, its local climate and the profusion of the karstic phenomena have drawn the attention of biospeleologists since the beginning of the last century. Among the first authors who treated the diversity and features of the invertebrate subterranean fauna from South-western Romania, worth mentioning are C.N. IONESCU (1914), R. JEANNEL and E. RACOVITZA (1929), J. MALLASZ (1929). Particularly, the subterranean beetles from Oltenia were studied by R. JEANNEL (1924, 1928 a, b, 1930, 1931), J. MALLASZ (1929, 1930) followed by M.AL. IENIȘTEA (1955) and V. DECU (1959, 1961, 1962). In the year 1964 D. DANCĂU and I. TABACARU compiled a valuable synthesis on the biospeleological researches in Oltenia and Banat. A first note on the mesovoid shallow substratum (superficial subterranean environment – S.S.E.) of Romania was published by C. JUBERTHIE and collab. (1981). This paper represents our contribution to the knowledge of the coleoptera fauna from the edaphic and subterranean environments of the Cloșani karstic area (the first faunal list of Coleoptera occurred in the subterranean superficial environment of Romania).

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

During October 1999–April 2002 we placed in the edaphic and subterranean superficial environments (also called *Mesovoid shallow substratum* – M.S.S.) nine Barber traps to sampling invertebrate fauna. Among these, seven traps were placed from 40 to 70 cm depth in the subterranean superficial environment (Fig. 1), having in view the collecting of fauna from all M.S.S. types (depending on the relation between the organo-mineral layer and the bed-rock) (Fig. 2).