

Joint ESENIAS and DIAS Scientific Conference 2022 and 11th ESENIAS Workshop

INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES UNDER CONDITIONS OF GLOBAL CRISIS

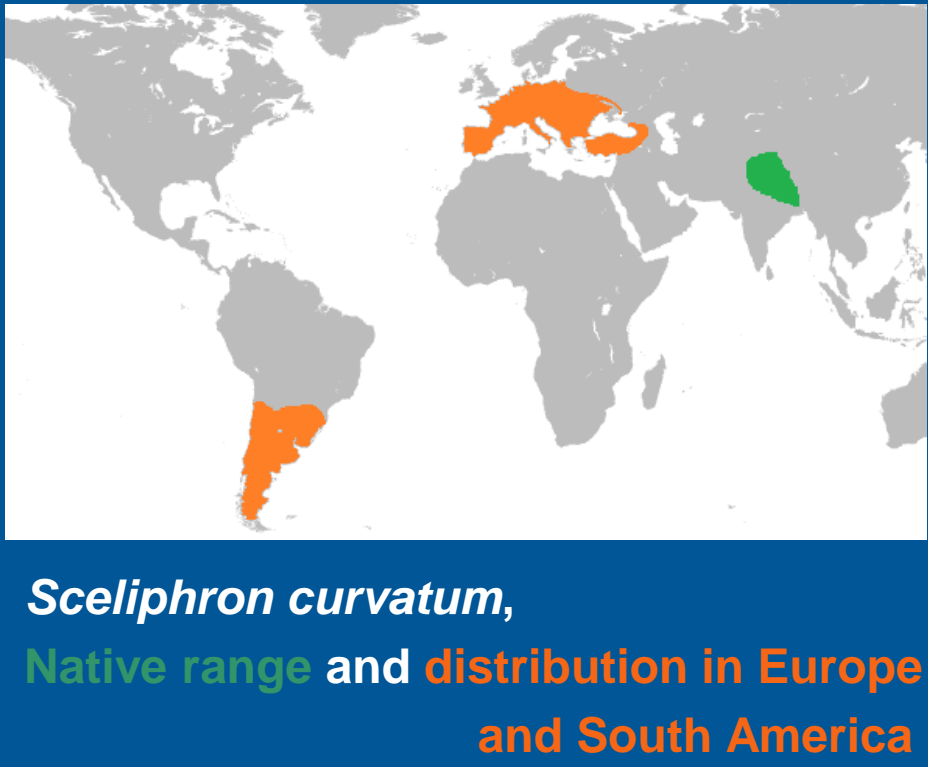
13 – 15 November, 2022 Demre, Antalya, Turkey

New data on the presence of *Sceliphron curvatum* (F.Smith, 1870) (Hymenoptera, Sphecidae) in Romania

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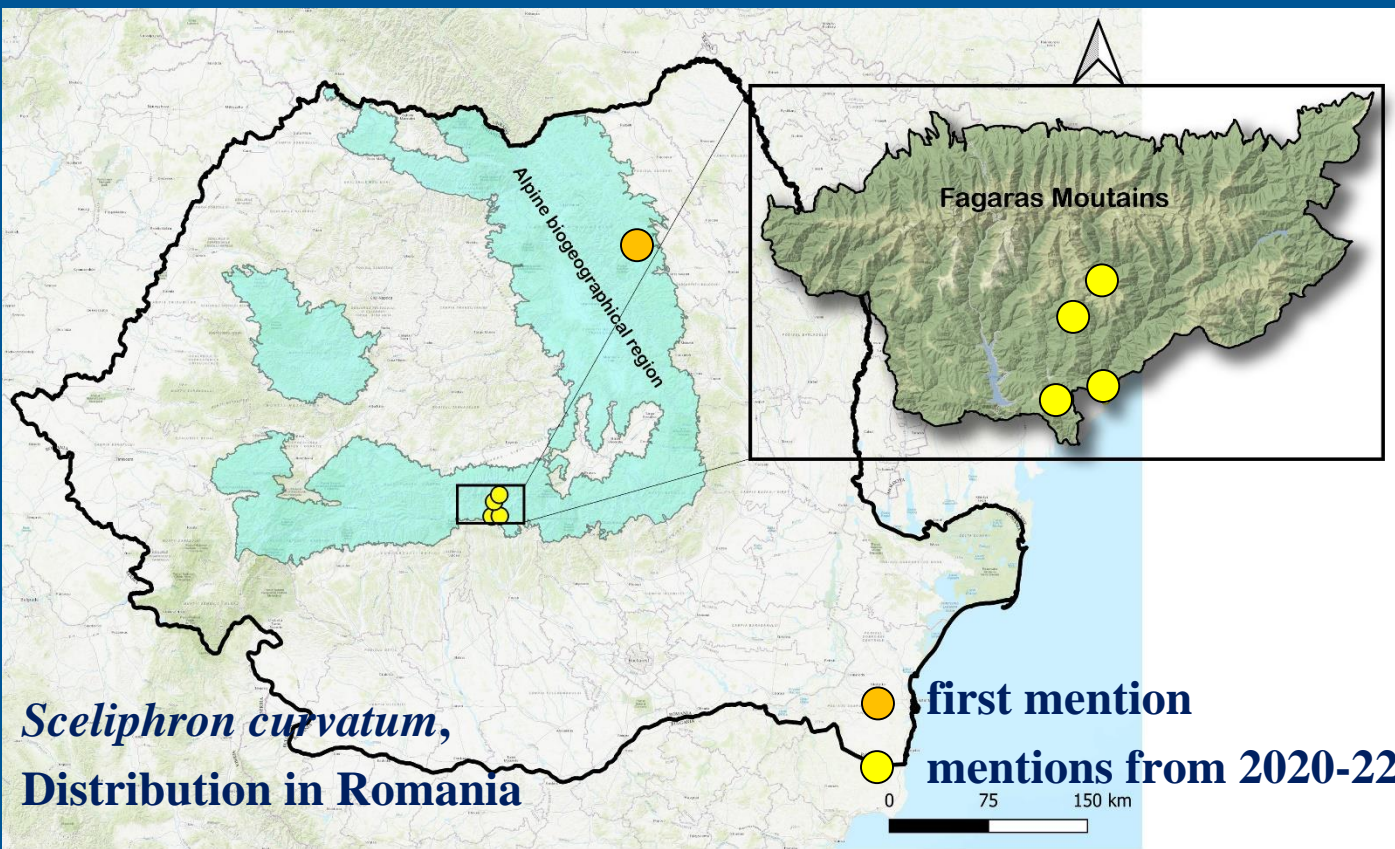
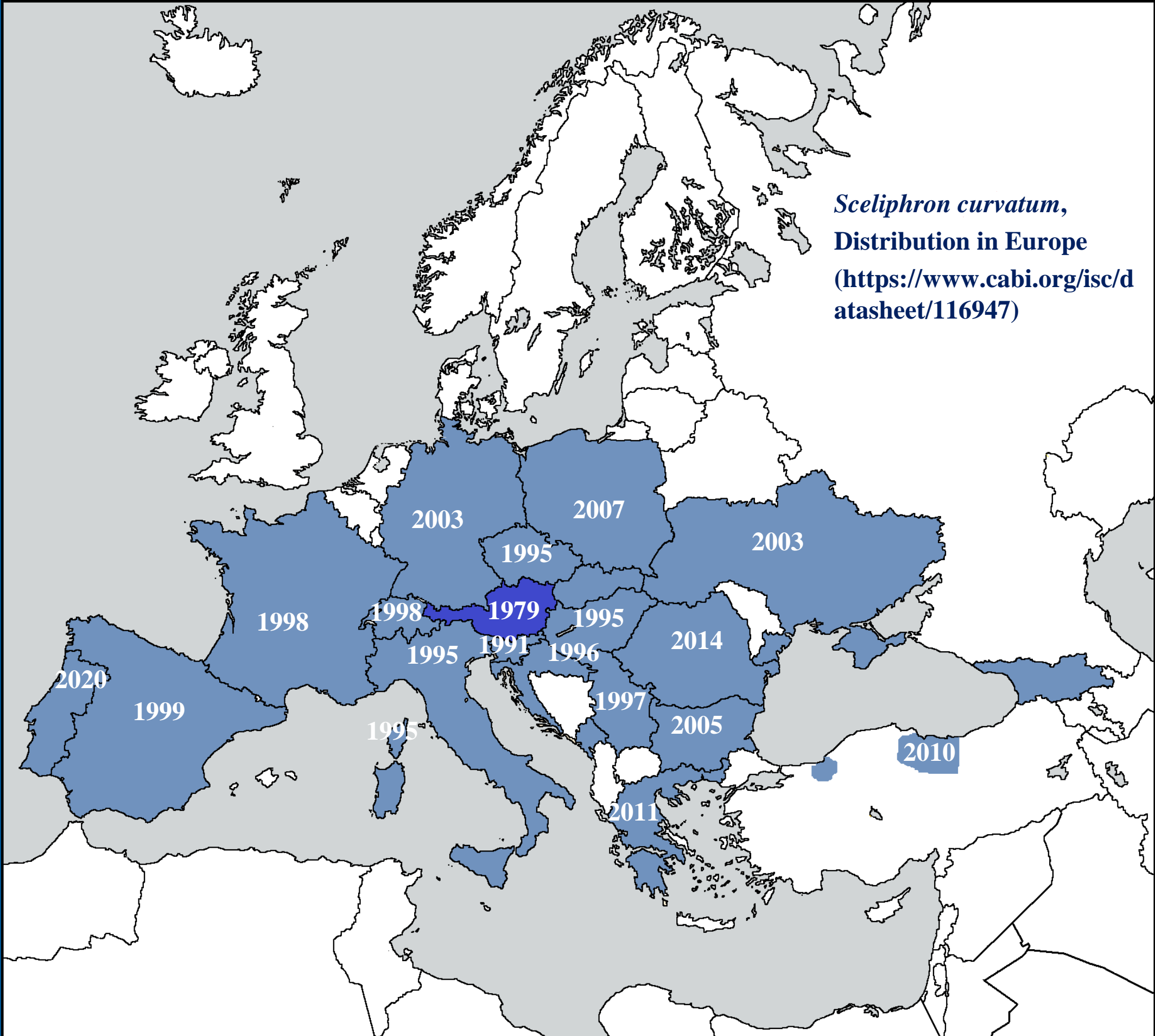
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Sceliphron curvatum is one of hymenoptera species from the Sphecidae family that build their nests out of mud for their larvae, which have recently spread in Europe as well. In the last 20 years, the fauna of Europe has been enriched with at least seven alien species of sphecid wasps, both of Asian and North or Central American origin. *Sceliphron cementarium*, of North American origin, *Sceliphron curvatum* and *Sceliphron deforme*, both of Asian origin, were added to the only European species of the Sceliphron genus - *S. destillatorium*. The same group of predatory wasps also include other alien species that were mentioned in last years across Europe – *Isodontia mexicana*, originating in Central America, *Chalybion zimmermanii* and *Ch. californicum* both of North American origin, and *Chalybion bengalense* of East Asian origin. From these species, in Romania are mentiones since now only three species – *S. cementarium*, *S. curvatum* and *I. mexicana*.

Sceliphron curvatum is a species native to India, Nepal and Central Asia, inhabiting mountainous areas. It was accidentally introduced into Europe, the first mention being from the south-eastern part of Austria, in 1979. Later it spread in Europe and is also mentioned fro Georgia, Turkey and even Argentina and Chile.

In Romania, it was mentioned only from the north-east of the country, in 2014, although photos of this species have appeared on websites since 2008, but with no data about locations. In the summer of 2020 (10.07.2020) a first specimen of this species was collected in the north of Arges County, on the territory of ROSCI 0122 Făgăraş Mountains. Two years later, in July 2022, other specimens of *S. curvatum* were identified in the same area - Valea Râului Doamnei and Basa - Zănoğuța - Furfuiescu alpine zone. We appreciate that at least in the area of the Făgăraş and lezer Păpuşa Mountains this species is present. In other mountain areas where field investigations were carried out between 2020 and 2022 - the Metaliferi Mountains, the Retezat Mountains National Park - no specimens of this species have been identified so far.



Sceliphron cementarium
Constanța, 06.10.2018

Isodontia mexicana,
Constanta, 26.07.2019

Acknowledgements. This work was supported by two grants of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Research - CCCDI – UEFISCDI, project number PN-III-P2-2.1-PED-2019-2584, within PNCD III, PN-III-P4-PCE2021-0818 AlpChange – Evaluation of the response of alpine communities to global changes, and by the project Services for monitoring the impact of ecological reconstruction activities on the diversity and abundance of terrestrial arthropods (2021 - 2024) in the area of ROSCI0122 Făgăraş Mountains, part of the project “Creation of a wilderness reserve in the Southern Carpathians, Romania” (Endangered Landscape Programme), implemented by Foundation Conservation Carpathia.