

## COMMENTED CHECKLIST OF ORTHOPTERA OF ALBANIA

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### **Abstract**

*This paper presents a checklist of Orthoptera occurring in Albania with an overview of their distribution in the 12 districts of the country. This list is the result of published and unpublished data by various entomologists studying the country's fauna. This list is a first stage before the publication of the results of the assessments of threatened species (National Red List) that the authors are currently carrying out. Only valid species are taken into account in this checklist. The new taxa discovered but not yet described and published are not included in the list. When it makes sense, we mention the subspecies, especially when more than one subspecies occur in Albania. This checklist includes also taxa not yet found in the country but found at less than 1km of the border when the habitat is similar on both sides. A total of 188 species is recorded but 4 species have not been confirmed recently.*

**Key words:** Orthoptera, distribution, overview, Albania .

### **Përmbledhje**

*Ky punim paraqet një listë të llojeve Orthoptera që referohen për Shqipërinë, me të dhëna të shpërndarjes së tyre në 12 qarqet e vendit. Kjo listë është*

*rezultat i të dhënave të publikuara dhe të papublikuara nga entomologë të ndryshëm që studiojnë faunën e vendit.*

*Kjo listë paraqet të dhëna të fazës paraprake, përpara publikimit të rezultateve të vlerësimeve të llojeve të kërcënuara (Lista e Kuqe Kombëtare) që autorët po kryejnë aktualisht. Vetëm llojet që janë të pranuar taksonomikisht janë dhënë në këtë listë. Llojet e reja të zbuluara, por të pa përshkruara dhe publikuara ende, nuk janë referuar në këtë listë. Në disa raste kemi refruar edhe nënlojin, sidomos kur në Shqipëri takohen më shumë se një nënloj për llojin e referuar. Kjo listë referon gjithashtu edhe lloje që nuk janë takuar në Shqipëri, por që takohen në më pak se 1 km nga kufiri Shqipërisë, në rastet kur habitatit është i ngjashëm në të dyja anët e kufirit. Gjithsej referohen 188 lloje, por 4 lloje nuk janë konfirmuar kohët e fundit.*

**Fjalë kyçe:** *Orthoptera, shpërndarje, listë llojeve, Shqipëri.*

## Introduction

The Orthoptera fauna of Albania has been poorly studied until the last decade (Puskás 2016). Due to its geographical location in the south-western Balkans, the country hosts a great diversity of habitats, from the sea coast to high mountains. As part of our work on the National Red List of Orthoptera, this checklist is a first step.

As the country is affected by major changes related to its development, the knowledge of an initial status of the orthopteran fauna is of utmost importance, although we have a poor visibility of the changes in the natural habitats that have occurred over the past decades. This checklist includes information on the geographical presence of each species in the twelve districts of the country.

Albania is primarily a mountainous country, with many peaks over 2000m high. The rest of the country, about 30%, is made up of alluvial plains and vast plateaus. It also has a western coastline overlooking the Adriatic Sea and, in its southernmost part, the Ionian Sea.

The climate overview of the country is shown in figure 1, the climate data are taken from <https://koppen.earth/>. This map is based on the Köppen-Geiger climate classes as described in Beck et al. (2023) and codified with 3

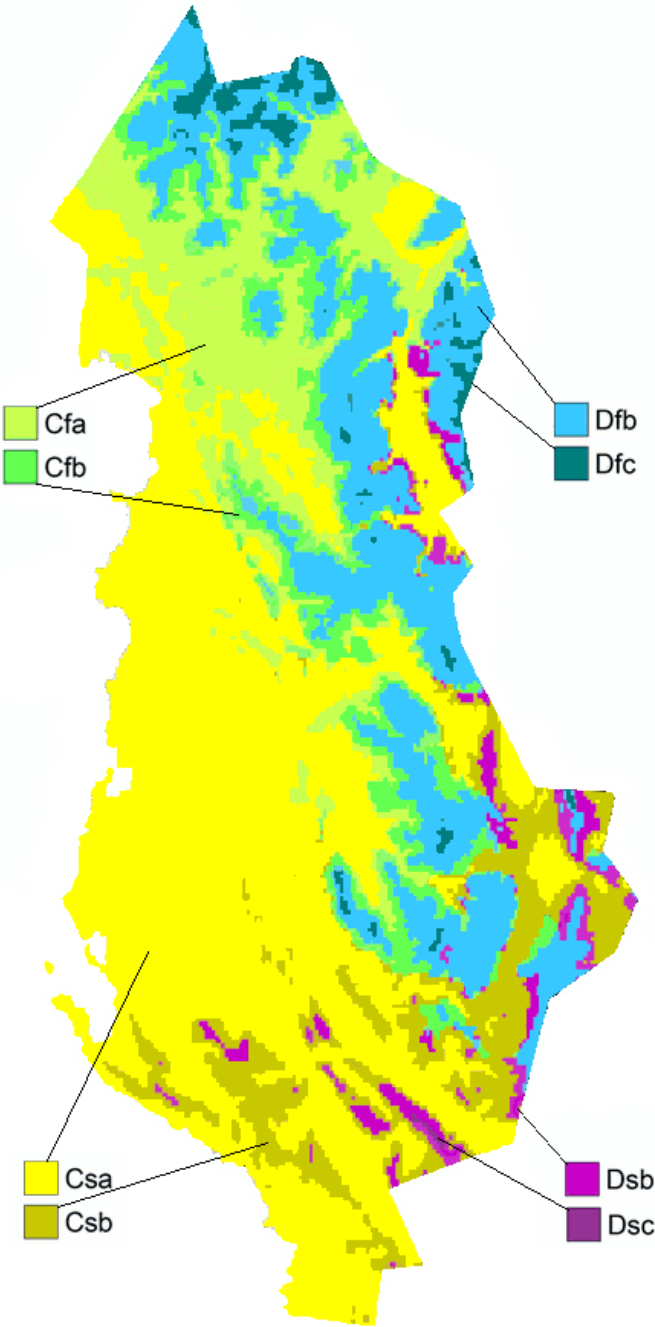
letters. The first letter is the type of climate, the second is the rainfall type, and the third is relative to temperature characteristics.

The western and southern part of the country is under Cs (a or b according to altitude) which means a hot temperate climate with dry summer (i.e. Mediterranean). It concerns the counties of Vlorë, Gjirokastër, Fier, and the lowlands of all the other counties. In extreme higher altitudes of the Cs area, the climate type is Ds (b to c according to altitude) which means a cold climate with dry summer. The mountains of northern and eastern parts of the country have no dry season we note a transition to colder and wetter climates following the shape of the mountains. Therefore the main classification of these parts are Cf (a or b according to altitude) which means a hot temperate climate without dry season, and higher in the mountains Df (b to c according to altitude) which means cold climate without dry season.

## Material and Methods

The data were collected as follows:

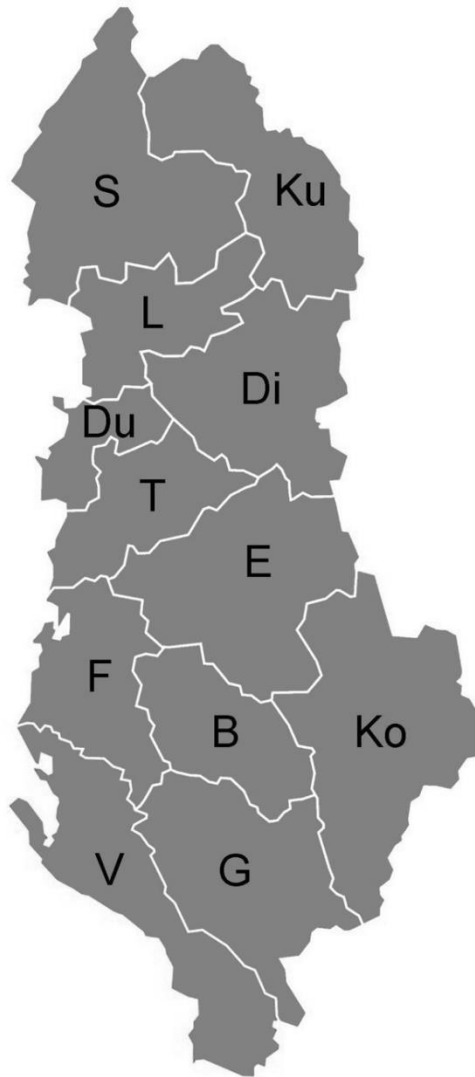
1. The unpublished personal data of the authors collected after the year 2000.
2. Recent unpublished data provided to us by colleagues.
3. The recent data published in scientific journals after the year 2000 (Karaman *et al.*, 2011; Lemonnier-Darcemont *et al.*, 2015; Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2016; Karaman *et al.*, 2014; Rabl & Kunz, 2018; Heller *et al.*, 2021; Kociński *et al.*, 2022; Lemonnier-Darcemont *et al.*, 2022; Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2023a; Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2023b; Celohoxhaj *et al.*, 2024; Lemonnier-Darcemont *et al.*, 2024; Subashaj *et al.*, 2024).
4. The data recorded on shared websites such as observation.org or inaturalist.org, when the confirmation of the observation is beyond doubt.
5. The older data from the literature and specimens from national history museums (Ebner, 1910; Karny, 1918; Berland & Chopard, 1922; Csiki, 1922; Ramme, 1951; Ragge, 1956; Čejchan, 1957; Čejchan, 1963; Harz, 1967; Kaltenbach, 1967; Harz, 1969; Murraj *et al.*, 1971; Harz, 1975).
6. Occurrence data outside of the country but at less than 1 km from the border and where the habitat is more or less similar on both sides of the border.



**Figure 1.** Overview of the climate of Albania

All data analysed were georeferenced enabling us to create maps of occurrence. However, in this checklist, presence/absence is indicated per county; the map of the twelve counties (= districts) of Albania is shown in figure 2, with S=Shkodër, Ku=Kukës, L=Lezhë, Di=Dibër, Du=Durrës, T=Tirana, E=Elbasan, F=Fier, B=Berat, Ko=Korçë, V=Vlorë, G=Girokastër.

We followed the taxonomic nomenclature used by Orthoptera Species File (Cigliano et al., 2024).



**Figure 2.** Map of the 12 counties of Albania**Results**

The table 1 shows the overview of the species richness of the country and also per county. We note 188 species with 3 endemic species, however four species have not been found recently. This total of 188 could decrease to 184 if these four species are now considered as locally extinct. However, this total will increase thanks to discoveries of new species, at least two are under description. We also note that four species occur in the country with two different subspecies.

**Table 1.** Overview of species richness, the threshold between old and recent data is year 2000. The column old data refers to old unconfirmed data.

	Number of species		
	Recent data	Old data	Total
<b>Albania</b>	183	5	<b>188</b>
<i>per counties:</i>			
Shkodër	99	8	<b>108</b>
Kukës	84	11	<b>95</b>
Lezhë	51	2	<b>53</b>
Dibër	87	1	<b>88</b>
Durrës	64	3	<b>67</b>
Tirana	41	12	<b>53</b>
Elbasan	65	4	<b>69</b>
Fier	41	1	<b>42</b>
Berat	52	1	<b>53</b>
Korçë	92	1	<b>93</b>
Vlorë	97	0	<b>97</b>
Girokastër	85	0	<b>85</b>

The Checklist of occurrences or potential occurrences per county is shown in the following table (Table 2). Some names of taxa in the literature have been excluded from the list if these taxa have been subject to taxonomic separation after the date of publication of the literature.

The black square indicates a recently recorded presence in a county, a light grey square indicates that the record is older (< year 2000) and the species is not recently found. The square with lateral stripes indicates that the species may be present in the county because it was found outside the country boundary at a distance of less than 1 km.

**Table 2.** Checklist of species with comments and overall distribution

[illegible]



Acrididae / Gomphocerinae / Ramburiellini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Ramburiella turcomana (Fischer von Waldheim, 1833)													
Acrididae / Gomphocerinae / Stenobothrini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Omocestus haemorrhoidalis haemorrhoidalis (Charpentier, 1825)													
Omocestus minutus (Brullé, 1832)													
Omocestus petraeus (Brisout de Barneville, 1856)													
Omocestus rufipes (Zetterstedt, 1821)													
Omocestus viridulus (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Stenobothrus clavatus Willemse, 1979													
Stenobothrus fischeri fischeri (Eversmann, 1848)													
Stenobothrus lineatus lineatus (Panzer, 1796)													
Stenobothrus nigromaculatus nigromaculatus (Herrich-Schäffer, 1840)													
Stenobothrus rubicundulus Kruseman & Jeekel, 1967													
Stenobothrus stigmaticus (Rambur, 1838)													
Acrididae / Melanoplinae / Podismini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Miramella albanica Mistshenko, 1952													
Miramella irena (Fruhstorfer, 1921)													
Odontopodisma albanica Ramme, 1951													
Oropodisma macedonica Ramme, 1951													
Peripodisma ceraunii Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2015													Endemic
Peripodisma llofizi Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2015													Endemic
Peripodisma tymphii Willemse, 1972													
Podisma pedestris (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Acrotylini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Acrotylus insubricus (Scopoli, 1786)													
Acrotylus longipes longipes (Charpentier, 1845)													
Acrotylus patruelis (Herrich-Schäffer, 1838)													
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Epacromiini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Aiolopus strepens (Latreille, 1804)													
Aiolopus thalassinus thalassinus (Fabricius, 1781)													
Paracrinema tricolor bisignata (Charpentier, 1825)													1918
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Locustini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Locusta migratoria migratoria (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Oedaleus decorus (Germar, 1825)													
Psophus stridulus (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Oedipodini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Celes variabilis variabilis (Pallas, 1771)													
Oedipoda caerulescens (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Oedipoda meridionalis Ramme, 1913 (= O. germanica meridionalis)													
Oedipoda miniata miniata (Pallas, 1771)													
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Parapleurini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Stethophyma grossum (Linnaeus, 1758)													
Acrididae / Oedipodinae / Sphingonotini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Sphingonotus caerulans (Linnaeus, 1767)													
Sphingonotus personatus (Zanon, 1926)													
Acrididae / Pezotettiginae	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Pezotettix giornae (Rossi, 1794)													
Acrididae / Tropidopolinae / Tropidopolini	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
Tropidopola graeca graeca Uvarov, 1926													

<b>Pamphagidae / Pamphaginae / Nocarodeini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Nocaracris bulgaricus</i> (Ebner & Drenowski, 1930)													
<b>Pamphagidae / Thrinchinae / Thrinchini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Prionotropis willmsorum</i> Massa & Ünal, 2015													
<b>Tetrigidae / Tetriginae / Tetrigini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Paratettix meridionalis</i> (Rambur, 1838)													
<i>Tetrix bipunctata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) (= <i>T. kraussii</i> )													
<i>Tetrix bolivari</i> Saulcy, 1901													
<i>Tetrix ceperoi</i> (Bolivar, 1887)													
<i>Tetrix depressa</i> Brisout de Barneville, 1848													
<i>Tetrix subulata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)													
<i>Tetrix tenuicornis</i> (Sahlberg, 1891)													
<b>Tridactylidae / Tridactylinae</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Xya pfaendleri</i> Harz, 1970													
<i>Xya variegata</i> (Latreille, 1809)													
<b>Gryllidae / Gryllinae / Gryllini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Acheta domesticus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)													
<i>Gryllus bimaculatus</i> De Geer, 1773													
<i>Gryllus campestris</i> Linnaeus, 1758													
<i>Melanogryllus desertus</i> (Pallas, 1771)													
<i>Svercus palmatorum</i> (Krauss, 1902)													
<b>Gryllidae / Gryllinae / Modicogryllini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Eumodicogryllus bordigalensis bordigalensis</i> (Latreille, 1804)													
<b>Gryllidae / Gryllomorphinae / Gryllomorphini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Gryllomorpha albanica</i> Ebner, 1910													1909
<i>Gryllomorpha dalmatina</i> (Ocskay, 1832)													
<b>Gryllidae / Gryllomorphinae / Petaloptilini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Ovaliptila newmanae</i> (Harz, 1969)													
<i>Ovaliptila willemsei</i> (Karaman, 1975)													
<b>Gryllidae / Oecanthinae / Oecanthini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Oecanthus dulcisonans</i> Gorochov, 1993													
<i>Oecanthus pellucens pellucens</i> (Scopoli, 1763)													
<b>Gryllotalpidae / Gryllotalpinae / Gryllotalpini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)													
<i>Gryllotalpa kimbasi</i> Baccetti, 1992 or <i>G. stepposa</i> Zhantiev, 1991													*2
<b>Myrmecophilidae / Myrmecophilinae / Myrmecophilini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Myrmecophilus</i> sp. (to be identified)													
<b>Mogoplistidae / Mogoplistinae / Arachnocephalini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Arachnocephalus vestitus</i> Costa, 1855													
<i>Pseudomogoplistes squamiger</i> (Fischer, 1853)													
<b>Mogoplistidae / Mogoplistinae / Mogoplistini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Mogoplistes brunneus</i> Serville, 1838													
<i>Paramogoplistes novaki</i> (Krauss, 1888)													
<b>Trigonidiidae / Nemobiinae / Pteronemobiini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Pteronemobius heydenii heydenii</i> (Fischer, 1853)													
<b>Trigonidiidae / Trigonidiinae / Trigonidiini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Natula averni</i> (Costa, 1855)													
<i>Trigonidium cicindeloides</i> Rambur, 1838													
<b>Rhaphidophoridae / Troglophilinae</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Troglophilus cavicola</i> (Kollar, 1833)													
<i>Troglophilus lazarepolensis</i> Karaman, 1958													
<i>Troglophilus ovuliformis</i> Karny, 1907													
<i>Troglophilus zorae</i> Karaman & Pavičević, 2011													



<b>Tettigoniidae / Saginae</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Saga campbelli</i> Uvarov, 1921													
<i>Saga hellenica</i> Kaltenbach, 1967													
<i>Saga natoliae</i> Serville, 1838													
<i>Saga pedo</i> (Pallas, 1771)													
<b>Tettigoniidae / Tettigoniinae / Decticini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Decticus albifrons</i> (Fabricius, 1775)													
<i>Decticus verrucivorus verrucivorus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)													
<b>Tettigoniidae / Tettigoniinae / Gampsocleidini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Gampsocleis abbreviata ebneri</i> Uvarov, 1921													
<b>Tettigoniidae / Tettigoniinae / Pholidopterini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Eupholidoptera schmidtii</i> (Fieber, 1861)													
<i>Pholidoptera aptera karnyi</i> Ebner, 1908													
<i>Pholidoptera dalmatica</i> (Krauss, 1879)													
<i>Pholidoptera ebneri</i> Ramme, 1931													
<i>Pholidoptera fallax</i> (Fischer, 1853)													
<i>Pholidoptera femorata</i> (Fieber, 1853)													
<i>Pholidoptera frivaldszkii</i> (Herman, 1871)													
<i>Pholidoptera griseoaptera</i> (De Geer, 1773)													
<i>Pholidoptera macedonica macedonica</i> Ramme, 1928													
<i>Psorodonotus macedonicus</i> Ramme, 1931													
<b>Tettigoniidae / Tettigoniinae / Platycleidini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Anterastes serbicus</i> Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882													
<i>Bicolorana bicolor</i> (Philippi, 1830)													
<i>Bucephaloptera bucephala</i> (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882)													
<i>Incertana incerta</i> (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882)													
<i>Metrioptera prenjica</i> (Burr, 1899)													
<i>Modestana ebneri ebneri</i> (Ramme, 1926)													
<i>Modestana ebneri excurvata</i> (Willemse, 1975)													
<i>Modestana modesta</i> (Fieber, 1853)													1922
<i>Pachytrachis frater</i> (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882)													
<i>Pachytrachis gracilis</i> (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1861)													
<i>Pachytrachis striolatus</i> (Fieber, 1853)													
<i>Platycleis affinis affinis</i> Fieber, 1853													
<i>Platycleis escaleraei escaleraei</i> Bolívar, 1899													
<i>Platycleis grisea</i> (Fabricius, 1781)													
<i>Platycleis intermedia intermedia</i> (Serville, 1838)													
<i>Rhacocleis germanica</i> (Herrich-Schäffer, 1840)													
<i>Roeseliana ambitiosa</i> (Uvarov, 1924)													
<i>Roeseliana epirotica</i> Lemonnier-Darcemont & Darcemont, 2023													
<i>Sepiana sepium</i> (Yersin, 1854)													
<i>Tessellana carinata</i> (Berland & Chopard, 1922)													
<i>Tessellana orina</i> (Burr, 1899)													
<i>Vichetia oblongicollis</i> (Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882)													
<i>Yersinella raymondii</i> (Yersin, 1860)													
<b>Tettigoniidae / Tettigoniinae / Tettigoniini</b>	S	Ku	L	Di	Du	T	E	F	B	Ko	V	G	
<i>Tettigonia balcanica</i> Chobanov & Lemonnier-Darcemont, 2014													
<i>Tettigonia caudata</i> (Charpentier, 1845)													
<i>Tettigonia viridissima</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)													

In the column “Comment”, when a year is indicated, this means the last year of observation of the species.

Other comments are:

- \*1 More material is required to refine at ssp level.
- \*2 They differ in number of chromosomes only (Iorgu *et al.*, 2016)
- \*3 The distribution is supposed to be wider.
- \*4 The status of ssp. has to be clarified.
- \*5 The taxonomy among these two species needs to be refined.

### Discussion and conclusion

The checklist of species occurring in Albania has increased drastically thanks to the studies carried out in the last decades and will continue to increase thanks to the new taxa discovered recently. In addition, we expect to find in Albania some of the species currently found in neighbouring countries, in areas close to Albania. However, some species or subspecies have been described from Albania and have never been found during the recent decades. This is the case of *Chrysochraon dispar giganteus* and *Gryllomorpha albanica*. Some species have not been found again in their type locality, such as *Conocephalus kisi*, *Conocephalus ebneri*, *Andreiniimon nuptialis*. Other species have been mentioned in old publications such as *Paracinema tricolor*, but have not been found in the country recently. Land use, especially in the lowlands, has increased drastically in recent decades, much of the coast is being converted for tourism, and in the mountains the gathering of medicinal plants has been intensified (Muharremaj, 2016). All of these factors pose a threat to the species, especially those living in wetlands and along the coast.

However, the low intensity of studies makes us think that we could find or re-find some species in the future. Accomplishing new field studies is important for two reasons: to help refine the accuracy of the assessments of the species status (Red List) and to find some refuges where the habitats are currently not threatened. This last point is a key input for possible conservation actions and discussions with stakeholders for the preservation of habitats hosting threatened species.

### Acknowledgments

We would like to express our gratitude to all the entomologists who submitted their data from Albania to [observation.org](http://observation.org) and [inaturalist.org](http://inaturalist.org). We

would also like to thank our colleagues who sent us their unpublished data from Albania: Lisbeth Zechner, Joaquin Ortego, Jorge Gutiérrez-Rodríguez, Roy Kleukers, Paolo Fontana, Christian Roesti, Daniel Roesti, John Mulder and data from borders close to Albania: Slobodan Ivković.

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