

Ethology of the robber fly *Dasyopogon irinelae* Weinberg, 1986 (Diptera, Asilidae)

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Abstract. The ethology of *Dasyopogon irinelae* Weinberg, 1986 (Diptera, Asilidae) was studied in the area around Erzurum, Turkey, in 2001 and 2002. Its resting, foraging, feeding, courtship and mating behaviour was recorded for the first time.

Kurzfassung. An der Raubfliege *Dasyopogon irinelae* Weinberg, 1986 (Diptera, Asilidae) wurden 2001 und 2002 in der Gegend von Erzurum, Türkei, ethologische Beobachtungen angestellt. Das Ruheverhalten, der Nahrungserwerb, das Fressverhalten und das Balz- und Paarungsverhalten wurden erstmals für diese Art untersucht.

Key words. Diptera, Asilidae, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

Dasyopogon irinelae was first described from a male from the Caucasus by WEINBERG (1986). Subsequently, a large number of specimens of this species (51 ♂ and 19 ♀) was collected in the Artvin, Erzincan and Erzurum provinces of Turkey by HAYAT & ALAOĞLU (1996), WEINBERG & HAYAT (1997), HAYAT & ÖZBEK (1999), and ÖZBEK & HAYAT (1999). WEINBERG & HAYAT (1997) redescribed the species with the male variation and described the females first time. HAYAT (1997) also identified some prey species of *D. irinelae* in Turkey. In this paper we describe the behaviour of *D. irinelae*, and compare it with observations on ethology made by GELLER-GRIMM (1998) on other robber flies in Germany, in particular on *D. diadema* (Fabricius, 1781).

Material and methods

In the summer of 2001 and 2002, *D. irinelae* was studied in an area west of the campus of Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey (39°54'N, 41°14'E) (Fig. 1), covering some 432 ha of woodland and with a mosaic of open patches occupied by herbaceous plant communities. The altitude is about 1900 m. The trees at the campus are mainly Scots Pine, *Pinus sylvestris*. The Erzurum area has a typical continental climate, with very cold and snowy winters and warm and dry summers.

The flies were observed from mid-July to the beginning of September (10.7-30.8.2001, 12.8-8.9.2002). Observations started at 9 o'clock in the morning and continued until about 5.30 p.m., when the flies became inactive. Photographs were taken of some behaviour types. For this, an Olympus Camedia Digital Camera, C-3030 was used. The prey of the flies was collected at every available opportunity using a sweep-net. The prey and its predator were netted together and placed in a vial, to protect them until they could be pinned.