

BREVI NOTE

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PHYSETOPODA FUSCULINA (INVREA, 1955), FIRST RECORD
FOR THE CORSICAN ISLANDS (*Hymenoptera Mutillidae*)

Physetopoda fusculina (Invrea, 1955), prima segnalazione le isole della Corsica (*Hymenoptera Mutillidae*)

The Corsican-Sardinian complex is characterized by a remarkable faunal distinctiveness, as result of its ancient isolation (ROSEMBAUM *et al.*, 2002). This can also be found in the hymenopteran family of Mutillidae, which includes several endemics among the species and subspecies inhabiting these islands (see PAGLIANO & STRUMIA, 2007). One of those, *Physetopoda fusculina*, was described by INVREA (1955: 249, sub *Smicromyrme*) from female specimens collected at Domus de Maria (SW Sardinia), and was then transferred by LELEJ (1985) to the genus *Physetopoda* Schuster, 1949. Unlike most of the Mutillidae endemic to the Corsican-Sardinian complex, which are common to both islands, this species has not hitherto been recorded for Corsica and, apart from Sardinia, it is just known for the islands of San Pietro (INVREA, 1964) and Sant'Antioco (LO CASCIO & ROMANO, 2004).

During entomological investigations carried out at Lavezzu Island (SE Corsica) has been found a female belonging to this species, whose data are given as follows: Lavezzu Island (Corsica, FR), 1-3.VI.2010, P. Lo Cascio and F. Grita legit; the specimen is kept in my own collection.

Lavezzu (41°20' N, 09°15' E) lies in the channel of Bocche di Bonifacio, between Sardinia and Corsica, at 3.58 km of distance from the latter. Mostly composed by granitic rocks, the island has a surface of 0.72 km² and a maximum elevation of 40 m a.s.l. The vegetation is mainly dominated by psammo-halophile communities in the coastal belt and by grassland in the inner areas (LANZA & POGGESI, 1986). For this island, COCQUEMPOT & CHAMBON (1992) have previously recorded two other species of Mutillidae, namely *Ronisia brutia* (Petagna, 1787) and the Corsican-Sardinian endemic *Physetopoda trioma* (Invrea, 1955).

The occurrence of *Physetopoda fusculina* is easily explained since Lavezzu is just 7 km from the northernmost point of Sardinia (Razzoli Island); the channel which separates the latter from Corsica is only 70 m deep; both were in territorial continuity during the last glaciations (OZER *et al.*, 1983), as well as Lavezzu with Corsica. Cannot be ruled, therefore, that the species also occurs on the main island, where its apparent absence could only be due to lack of research.

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