

blizu majhnega potoka, ki občasno poplavlja okolico. Do sedaj še ni bilo znano, da bi vrsta *L. bicornis* prebivala v takem habitatu. Zaradi novejših taksonomskih sprememb je potrebno vrsto *Myrmica bessarabica* Nasonov, 1889, ki je navedena v seznamu za Slovenijo (Bračko 2000), zamenjati z *M. specioides* Bondroit, 1918.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: mravlje, favnistika, *Lasius bicornis*, *Myrmica specioides*, Slovenija.

The twelve European species of the subgenus *Chthonolasius* are temporary social parasites. Hosts are species of the subgenus *Lasius* s.str. (Seifert 1988a) and presumably species of *Cautolasius* (Schlick-Steiner et al. 2002). Like social parasites in general, *Chthonolasius* species have much lower densities than their hosts (Buschinger 1971). Their hypogaecic life habit (Seifert 1996) makes them difficult to be found. Furthermore, the determination of some of the species remains one of the most difficult tasks within European ants. These aspects result in a general scarceness of data on faunistics, ecology and biology (Seifert & Buschinger 2001).

From 5 June to 12 July 2001, pitfall traps were exposed in a *Quercus petraea-Carpinus betulus* forest beside the small, strongly meandering brook Virje at Dobrava, NE of Brežice (Slovenia, 45°56'N/15°40'E, 160 m a.s.l.). The crown closure was high, the herbaceous layer was weak with little patches of direct light reaching the ground. The soil was sandy, with local patches of clay. Rotten wood was present, but its density was low. The water regime was highly dynamic during the trapping period: A strong inundation flooded the pitfall traps in early June, but already at the end of June the brook was completely drained and the stand had a dry-warm appearance.

The catches contained a single worker of *Lasius (Chthonolasius) bicornis* (Förster, 1850). Cooccurring ant species were *Myrmica rubra* (Linnaeus, 1758), *M. specioides* Bondroit, 1918, *Leptothorax crassispinus* Karawajew, 1926, *Myrmecina graminicola* (Latreille, 1802), *Stenammina debile* (Förster, 1850), *Lasius platythorax* Seifert, 1991, *Formica gagates* Latreille, 1798 and *F. fusca* Linnaeus, 1758. In Bračko (2000) *Myrmica specioides* had been referred to as *Myrmica bessarabica* Nasonov, 1889, which was recently classified as „*Myrmica incertae sedis*“ (Seifert 2002); the characters of *M. specioides* according to Seifert (1988b) and Seifert (1996), do however apply to all records of „*M. bessarabica*“ in Bračko (2000).

*Lasius bicornis* has a Western Palaearctic distribution (Seifert 1988a), but is a very rare and only locally occurring species throughout its range (Seifert 1996). The species nests in rotten logs of dead and living trees (Seifert 1988a), and occasionally in the ground (Mei 1984, Seifert 1988a). Little is known about the feeding habits of *L. bicornis*, but once the lachnid *Schizodryobius pallipes* Hartig, obviously a trophobiotic partner, was found inside a nest (Mei 1984). No direct observation of a host use by *L. bicornis* has been accomplished by now, but *Lasius brunneus* (Latreille, 1798) is the most probable host (Seifert, unpublished data). Determination of all castes, as an exception within *Chthonolasius*, is comparatively easy and unequivocal (Seifert 1988a). From an ecological point of view this record of *L.*