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Neues zur Verbreitung und Ökologie von *Colletes sierrensis* FREY-GESSNER, 1901 (Hym. Apidae)

Zusammenfassung: *Colletes sierrensis* (FREY-GESSNER, 1901) wurde im September 2004 in den spanischen Pyrenäen erstmals lebend nachgewiesen. Dabei handelt es sich um die Beobachtung eines pollensammelnden Weibchens in seinem charakteristischen Lebensraum und gleichzeitig um den zweiten Nachweis auf der Iberischen Halbinsel. Der Fundort ist ein südexponierter, 600-700 m hoch gelegener, offener, nicht beweideter Steilhang bei Sant Salvador de Bianya an der Landstraße C153a nördlich von Olot (Provinz Girona) mit vielen größeren und kleineren Herden von *Odontites viscosus* (Klebriger Zahntrost, Scrophulariaceae). Die Pollenladung des Weibchens enthielt ausschließlich Pollen dieser Pflanze.

Abstract: New data on the distribution and ecology of *Colletes sierrensis* FREY-GESSNER, 1901 (Hym. Apidae). – In the afternoon of the 12th of September 2004, during our second attempt to find *Colletes sierrensis* on the Iberian Peninsula and after a several days of constant search, we discovered a large southerly exposed slope, vegetated by numerous patches of *Odontites viscosus* (Scrophulariaceae), the specific pollen source of *Colletes sierrensis* in Switzerland and France. The locality was north of Olot (province of Girona) near Sant Salvador de Bianya (close to road Nr. C153a) at an altitude of 600-700 m. There were no *C. sierrensis* around, but many freshly emerged males of *Colletes hederæ* SCHMIDT & WESTRICH and a few of *Melitta tricincta* (K.), which patrolled the plants and drank nectar from the tiny flowers. Ivy (*Hedera helix*), the specific pollen source of *C. hederæ*, was not yet in bloom.

On the following day, at about midday, we found a pollen collecting female with macroscopic similarity to the species in question. With a microscope which we had deliberately brought with us, we immediately carried out an examination of the clypeus structure. Distinct transverse wrinkles on this structure is an identifying character for the female of this species. These were indeed found, confirming that we had rediscovered *C. sierrensis* in Spain after 40 years and that this species is still occurring in this country. The analysis of the pollen load, later carried out in the lab, showed that *C. sierrensis* forages the same plant species for pollen collecting on the Iberian Peninsula as in other parts of its range of distribution. Interestingly, a further search did not result in any more females, or males. This suggests the population size is small at this site.

The site discovered by us is about 450 km northwest of Teruel, where, in 1963, a museum specimen and the first spanish record had been caught. After having rediscovered this bee species in Spain, we would encourage bee specialists to look for it in other parts of the Iberian Peninsula to gather more information on the distribution, ecology and conservation requirements. Areas with *Odontites viscosus* growing in large numbers provide the basis for a successful search.