

Occurrence of the box tree moth *Cydalima perspectalis* (Walker, 1859) in Mountain Galicica

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The box tree moth, *Cydalima perspectalis* (Crambidae), is a nocturnal moth species, originating from East Asia. After its introduction in Europe (2006 in Germany), due to its invasiveness this species quickly spread throughout the continent, reaching the Netherlands and Switzerland in 2007, and France, United Kingdom and Austria in 2008. The moth has been registered also in Slovenia and Hungary (2011), Croatia (2012), Greece (2013), and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Serbia, in 2014. The first record of the box tree moth in the Republic of North Macedonia was in 2014 on box seedlings in parks, gardens and other urban green spaces in the city of Skopje. In natural populations of *Buxus sempervirens*, this species was firstly recorded in the Vodno Mountain in 2015, and since then its population has increased.

We present a review on the occurrence, morphology, biology, impact, control actions and distribution of the box tree moth in Mountain Galicica. The study was conducted in an association of *Phillyreo latifoliae* – *Carpinetum orientalis*, i.e. in one of its subassociations – Subassociation *buxetosum*, which is spread most likely due to the subatlantic influence of Lake Ohrid. The data on occurrence of the box tree moth were obtained by field observations and data collected from the general public. Based on the obtained results, recommendations about measures for gradual regulation of the box tree moth populations in Mountain Galicica were made.

Key words: Invasive alien species, *Buxus sempervirens*, box tree moth, morphology, control measures.