

Research article

A new record of metalmark moth from Türkiye: *Choreutis sexfasciella* (Sauber, 1902) (Choreutidae: Lepidoptera)

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Abstract: This is the first record for Türkiye of the widespread Indo-Australian metalmark moth, *Choreutis sexfasciella* (Sauber, 1902) (Choreutidae: Lepidoptera). The presence of several specimens of *C. sexfasciella* was photographed in the Turkish province of Mersin in the Mediterranean Region in June, 2024.

Keywords: Metalmark moth, Choreutidae, new record, Mersin, Mediterranean

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Introduction

Choreutidae, metalmark moths, are a family of micro-moths with a worldwide distribution and contains 413 species (Rota et al. 2014) in 19 genera (Nieukerken et al. 2011; Rota & Miller, 2013). Most have iridescent markings on their wings. The genus *Choreutis* Hübner (1825) is the largest genus of the Choreutidae, and includes more than 100 species (Heppner, 2024). Most of the fauna in the genus is distributed in the Indo-Australian tropics (ca. 30 spp.), ranging east into the South Pacific, with lesser numbers of species in tropical Africa (12 spp.), and in the Palearctic (11 spp.) from Europe to Japan and Korea (Diakonoff, 1986; Heppner, 2023).

Only four *Choreutis* species have been recorded from the European Palearctic region, which includes the Middle East and Türkiye. One of the species known in Turkey is *Choreutis pariana* (Clerck), called the apple and thorn skeletonizer (Carter, 1982, 1984). In addition to *C. pariana*, which is of economic importance, *Choreutis nemorana* (Hübner) is known

widespread in the Mediterranean region on cultured figs (*Carica* sp.) in Türkiye. Another species on wild figs that was only recently found is the colorful Turkish species *Choreutis muhabbet* (Koçak, 2008) (Koçak, 2008a, 2008b; Heppner and Kemal, 2023). This is the first documented report of the metalmark moth, *Choreutis sexfasciella* (Sauber, 1902) in Türkiye. *Ficus* spp. (Moraceae) are known as host of different species of *Choreutis* (Prins, 2014; Prins and Prins, 2014; Rota, 2011; Rittner, 2019; Rota et al., 2014; Abu Ghonem et al., 2020; Heppner, 2023; Heppner and Kemal, 2023; Heppner, 2024). *Choreutis sexfasciella* is also reported to feed on ficus plants used in horticulture (Heppner, 2023; Heppner, 2024).

Materials and Methods

Choreutis sexfasciella specimens were photographed from a light trap using a 160 watt lamp in Mersin, Anamur, Ören in the Mediterranean Region of Türkiye (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Recording locality of *Choreutis sexfasciella* in Türkiye.

Results

Choreutis sexfasciella (Sauber, 1902)

Choreutidia sexfasciella Sauber, 1902:702 (in Semper, 1902)

Type locality: Luzon, Philippines

Simaethis fulminea Meyrick, 1912:48 Type locality: Sri Lanka

Simaethis emplecta Turner, 1942:93, Type locality: Cairns, Queensland, Australia (Heppner, 2023)

Choreutis sexfasciella, widely distributed in tropical Asia, was first described from the Philippines (Semper 1896–1902) and later recorded from Sri

Lanka (Meyrick, 1912), Japan (Arita & Diakonoff, 1979), Taiwan (Heppner & Inoue, 1992), Java (Savela, 2019), Israel (Rittner, 2019), Egypt (Abu Ghonem et al., 2020) and Southern California and Florida, (Heppner, 2023), respectively. Now, *C. sexfasciella* is also present in Türkiye.

Observation records (photographed): Türkiye: Mersin-Anamur-Ören in the Mediterranean Region (36.037946 N - 32.816593 E), 27-28.VI.2024, Ö. Koçak (Figure 2).

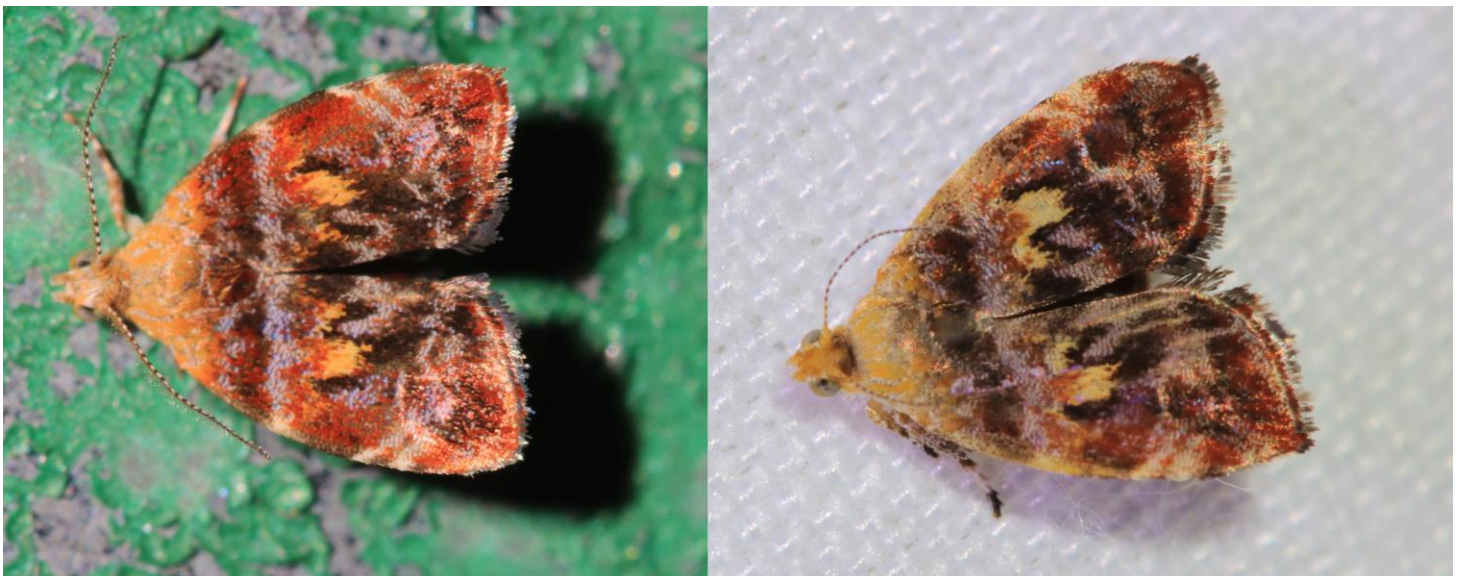


Figure 2. Adults of *Choreutis sexfasciella* (Mersin, Anamur-Ören, Türkiye, 2024) (Photo: Özgür Koçak)

Remarks. This is the first report of the small metalmark moth *Choreutis sexfasciella* (Sauber, 1902) (Choreutidae: Lepidoptera) in Türkiye.

Ethical Approval

No need to get ethical approval for this study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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