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Hidden biological richness of the Balkans: discovery of *Ammobatoides abdominalis* (Eversmann) and *Melitturga clavicornis* (Latreille) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Hymenoptera: Apoidea)

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INTRODUCTION

The Balkan bee fauna is known to be under-sampled and under-studied, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Wood 2021; Michez, Boustani et al 2026). Reverté et al. (2023) recorded 292 species for Bosnia and Herzgovina, a considerably lower number than that reported from neighbouring Croatia where 665 species have been recorded. *Ammobatoides* (Radoszkowski) is a parasitic bee genus from the family Apidae which comprises four species in Europe (Ghisbain, Rosa et al. 2025; Wood & Patiny 2025). *Ammobatoides* parasitises species of the genus *Melitturga* Latreille, a species-poor genus of Andrenidae grouping six species in Europe (Ghisbain, Rosa et al. 2025; Wood & Patiny 2025). The present work reports for the first time the presence of *Ammobatoides abdominalis* (Eversmann) and one of its host species *Melitturga clavicornis* (Latreille) for the fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

One female of *Ammobatoides abdominalis* was collected at Plaža Buško (Livanjsko polje, Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 14th of July 2018. The specimen can be assigned to *Ammobatoides abdominalis* following the characters given by Wood & Patiny (2025): labrum ventrally with weak bristles and medially with a longitudinal carina; metasoma mostly red except for the black T5; apical and narrow white/yellow hair patches on T2-4, complete to almost complete band on T4 (Fig. 1a-f). Further, one female of *Melitturga clavicornis* was collected at Put prema deponiji (Livanjsko polje; Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 15th of July 2018. This female can be assigned to *Melitturga clavicornis* following the characters given by Wood & Patiny (2025): discs of terga densely and regularly punctate with surrounding surface shiny, making the punctures strongly contrasting; discs of terga densely punctate with impunctate area before the margins; margins of terga depressed compared to the discs, making a step-like shape; margins of terga finely granular shagreened, surface of the whole terga dark and uniformly coloured; clypeus almost entirely yellow, broadly flat and featureless; scutum and scutellum with dense punctation, scutellum mostly densely punctate with interspaces of 0.5 puncture diameters; outer surface of galea finely sculptured, matt and dull; terminal hair fringe golden-orange (Fig. 2a-f). Both species represent first records for the bee fauna of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although they have been documented in neighbouring countries, as reported by Reverté et al. (2023) and Sentil et al. (2026), who compiled data on the European bee fauna, both species had not previously been recorded in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These findings highlight the under-sampled nature of the region and underscore the importance of continued research on Balkan bee diversity.

MATERIAL

Specimen data available at https://doi.org/10.5886/aptbol

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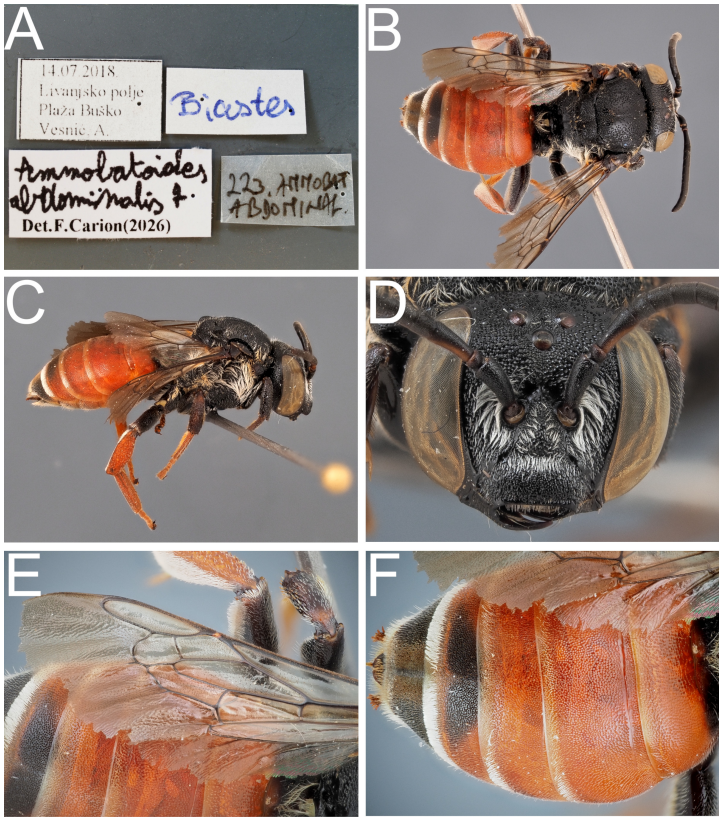

Figure 1: Studied specimen of *Ammobatoides abdominalis*, female (FC—BH—001). **a.** Labels. **b.** Habitus in dorsal view. **c.** Habitus in lateral view. **d.** Head in frontal view. **e.** Left wing in dorsal view. **f.** Metasoma in dorsal view.

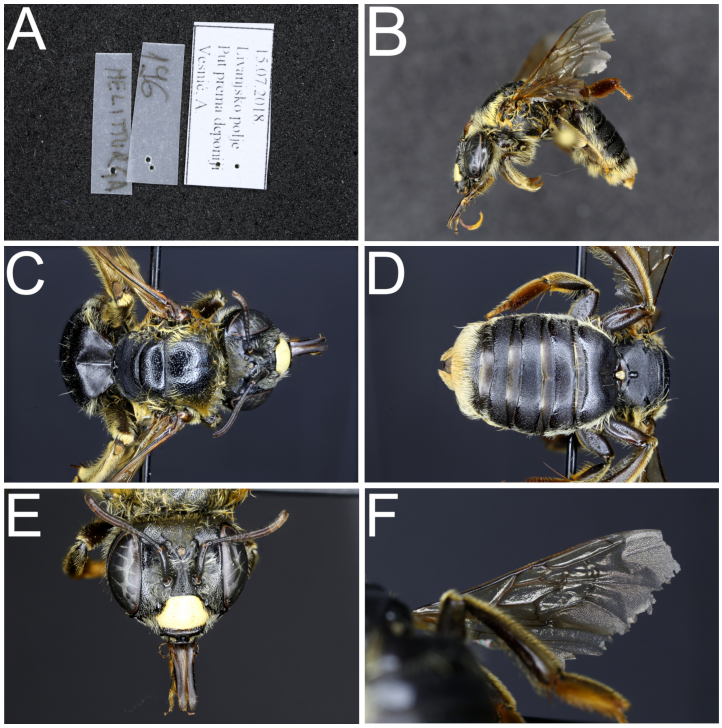

Figure 2: Studied specimen of *Melitturga clavicornis*, female (FC—BH—002). **a.** Labels. **b.** Habitus in lateral view. **c.** Head and mesosoma in dorsal view. **d.** Metasoma in dorsal view. **e.** Head in frontal view. **f.** Right wing in oblique view.