



Two new cryptic *Leptophyes* species from southern Italy (Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae)

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Abstract

In this paper two new species of *Leptophyes* from southern Italy are described, *L. calabra* n. sp. and *L. sicula* n. sp.. Both species are similar to the common *L. punctatissima* and the recently described *L. lisae* from Greece, but can be identified by a combination of morphological and bioacoustical characters. Descriptions of both species are provided and an illustrated key to the European species of *Leptophyes* is presented. These new findings are remarkable as the genus *Leptophyes* harbours only 15 species worldwide. This study suggests that the *Leptophyes punctatissima* - group in southern Europe is in need of a thorough survey. It is essential that bioacoustical information be involved in this study.

Key words: *Leptophyes calabra*; *Leptophyes sicula*; bioacoustics; song; distribution

Introduction

The genus *Leptophyes* Fieber, 1853 contains 15 species worldwide (Eades & Otte 2009), of which six occur in Europe (Heller 2007, Heller *et al.* 1998). The number of species was quite stable, but recently Heller & Willemse, 1989 described *Leptophyes lisae* from Greece and Naskrecki & Ünal (1995) and Sevgili (2004) described two new species from Turkey.



FIGURE 1. *Leptophyes calabra*, male (holotype) at the type locality Tiriolo, Calabria (2008). Holotype. Photo R. Kleukers.