

Short communication

NEW OCCURRENCE OF *ASTROBUNUS LAEVIPES* (CANESTRINI, 1872)
(ARACHNOIDEA, OPILIONES, PHALANGIIDAE) IN HUNGARY
(IN THE VALLEY OF RIVER RAKACA — CSEREHÁT)

ZS. BOKOR

Department of Ecology, Kossuth Lajos University, H-4010 Debrecen, P.O.B. 14., Hungary

(Received: July 15, 1996)

Abstract

A new occurrence of *Astrobonus laevipes* (CANESTRINI, 1872) is found in the North Hungarian Mountain Cserehát, next to river Rakaca, close to villages Szemere and Szászfa. The plant communities including the species are *Cirsio cano-Festucetum pratensis*, *Caricetum elatae*, *Quercetum petraeae-cerris*.

Introduction

The genus first was described by THORELL in 1876 and the species *Hoplites laevipes* by CANESTRINI in 1872.

The species was published by ROEWER (1923) as *Astrobonus meadi*, later by KOLOSVÁRY (1933) as *Roeweriolus hungaricus*, and as *Roeweriolus dudichi* by SZALAY (1951).

SZALAY (1968) published 3 species from the genus (*Astrobonus*) from Hungary in the Opiliones volume of Fauna Hungaria:

Astrobonus laevipes CANESTRINI, the species of woodland in Alps; in Hungary along the river Tisza: Tiszadob, Tiszakarád and Szeged.

A. Meadi THORELL, the species of wet spring valleys; Transdanube: Kőszeg, Sopron, Sárvár, Csopak, Zirc; Mátra-mountain: Alsópetény; Great Hungarian Plain: Tiszaug, Tiszakarád, Diszadob, Dombrád, Szabolcsveresmart.

A. Dudichi SZALAY occurs on the surroundings of Sopron.

Occurrences - following the time of collection

Astrobunus laevipes CANESTRINI: the date and name of the collector is not available, sites: Budapest, Tiszadob, Tiszakarád, Szeged.

Astrobunus meadi THORELL: the date and name of the collector is not available, sites: Kőszeg, Sopron, Zirc, Csopak, Tiszaug, Tiszadob, Tiszakarád, Dombrád, Szabolcsveresmart.

Roeweriolus dudichi SZALAY: 30. 09. 1943, (the name of the collector is unknown), Tacsí-árók; 27. 05. 1944, 06. 1944, 06. 09. 1944, SZALAY, Sopron- Lőverek; 18. 07. 1944, 06. 1946. SZALAY, Vas-mountain.

Roeweriolus hungaricus KOLOSVÁRY: 1925, SZALAY, Sárvár, Csopak; the date and name of the collector is not available, sites: Tiszaug, Tiszadob, Kőszeg, Sopron, Zirc, Csopak.

MARTENS (1968) takes the three species mentioned above a single one as *Astrobunus laevipes*.

It's area: SE Europe, including the countries of the Carpathians, Great Hungarian Plain, the valley between the upper section of river Elba and Danube. In Hungary: in the litter.

Some specific features of the newly found individuals

Back: light brown basic colour with silver patches on the backplates and the free tergites. 1-1 pair short conical bristle can be found on the tergites I-V and the fifth tergite yet bears 2 smaller bristles in lateral position. On the first free tergite 4 similar conical bristles can be seen from which the size of the two lateral can vary. Two smaller bristles are on the second free tergite.

Description of the habitats

Cserehát (the part of the North Hungarian Mountain Range) is situated on 300 to 320 m above the sea level. The river Rakaca running from East to West collects the water at the northern base of Cserehát.

The climate of the Rakaca valley is moderately cool and dry, a little bit warmer than the other parts of Cserehát.

Near the villages Szemere and Szászfa (in the Rakaca valley) 113 *Astrobunus laevipes* individuals were collected. The distribution of the individuals varied according to the life cycle of the species. The sampling times are: 05. 1992, 06. 1992, 08. 1992, 09. 1992, 11. 1992 and 08. 1994 (Table 1).

Locality of the sampling

1. North to the village Szemere. At the beginning of the Kánás-valley on a wet meadow (*Cirsio cano-Festucetum pratensis* community). Along the river toward the stratum spring in a *Filipendulo-Geranium palustre* community, next to it in a

Caricetum elatae community and in a zonal turkey oak-sessile oak forest patch (*Quercetum petraea-cerris* community) growing just at the edge of the river.

2. Near to the village Szászfa — on a wet meadow (*Cirsio cano-Festucetum pratensis* community) close to Német drain canal.

Table 1. Distribution of the individuals among the habitats

Szemere			
1992	sedge vegetation	wet meadow	oak forest
04.22-05.19	1	0	0
05.19-06.19	0	0	0
06.19-08.10	5	2	0
08.10-09.02	3	8	13
09.02-11.03	6	28	15
1994			
04.19-08.23	0	6	18

Szászfa	
1992	wet meadow
04.22-05.19	4
05.19-06.19	0
06.19-08.10	0
08.10-09.02	0
09.02-11.03	4
1994	
	0

References

- DUDICH, E., KOLOSVÁRY, G. and SZALAY, L. (1940): Bars vármegye pókszabású (Arachnoidea-) faunájának alapvetése. — Matematikai és Term. tud. Közlemények 38, 9-13.
- KOLOSVÁRY, G. (1934): Neue Weberknechte-Studien, II. Neue Daten zur Kenntnis der Biologie der Art *Roeweriolus hungaricus* KOLOSVÁRY. — Acta Lit. Sci. R. Univ. Szeged. 3, 1-10.
- KOLOSVÁRY, G. (1940): Újabb adatok Kőszeg vidékének kaszáspókfajához. — A községi múzeum közlem. 2, 304-306.
- KOLOSVÁRY, G. (1963): Das Leben der Tisza XXI. Opilioniden des Gebietes der Inundationsraume der Tisza. — Acta Biol. Szeged. 9, 191-193.
- KOLOSVÁRY, G. (1965): Opilioniden des Gebietes der Ungarischen Volksrepublik. — Acta Biol. Szeged. 11, 165-168.
- MARTENS, J. (1978): Weberknechte, Opiliones. — Tierwelt Deutschlands. 64. Jena, G. Fischer.
- NAGY, M. and PAPP, M. (1992): Reliktum forrásláp a Rakaca mellett. — I. Kelet-Mo-i Vad- és Halgazd. Természetvédelmi Konf. DATE.
- SZALAY, L. (1951): Opiliones aus der Umgebung von Sopron. — Acta Biol. Acad. Sci. Hung. 2, 299-306.
- SZALAY, L. (1968): Pókszabásúak: Arachnoidea (Pseudoscorpionidae, Opiliones). — In: Magyarország Állatvilága, Fauna Hungaria MTA kiadás.