



***Lithobius pelidnus* (HAASE, 1880) : a new species for
the Belgian fauna (Myriapoda Chilopoda)**

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Abstract

Lithobius pelidnus is reported for the first time for Belgium. The species was found on the 19th of January 2005 in a humid pine forest in the nature reserve Landbruch in Arlon. A brief description and some notes on the distribution are given. With this species, the number of centipedes in Belgium has risen to 32.

Keywords : *Lithobius pelidnus*, Chilopoda, Belgium.

Samenvatting

Lithobius pelidnus wordt voor het eerst gerapporteerd voor de Belgische fauna. De soort werd gevonden op 19 januari 2005 in een vochtig dennenbos in the natuurreservaat Landbruch in Arlon. Een korte beschrijving wordt gegeven en de verspreiding wordt besproken. Met deze soort stijgt het aantal duizendpoten in België tot 32.

Résumé

Lithobius pelidnus est rapporté pour la première fois de Belgique. L'espèce a été trouvée le 19 janvier 2005 dans une pinède humide dans la réserve naturelle du Landbruch à Arlon. Une brève description et quelques notes sur la distribution sont données. Avec cette espèce, le nombre de chilopodes pour la Belgique s'élève à 32.

Introduction

On the 19th of January 2005, *Lithobius pelidnus* (HAASE, 1880) was discovered for the first time in Belgium. One specimen of the species was found in nature reserve Landbruch near Arlon (province of Luxembourg, UTM FR9605) by sifting litter from *Pinus sylvestris* L. from a humid pine forest.

LOCK (2000a) reported in his checklist 31 centipedes for Belgium. Since then, no species were added to the fauna of Belgium. With the discovery of *L. pelidnus*, the number of centipedes occurring in Belgium has risen to 32.

Description

Lithobius pelidnus belongs the superfamily Lithobiomorpha. Apart from this species, 16 Lithobiomorpha were observed in Belgium of which 15 species belong to the genus *Lithobius* (LOCK, 2000a). *L. pelidnus* is 10-15 mm long and the color is yellow-brown with in the middle often a darker band or spots dorsally. On each side of the head, about 15 ocelli are arranged in four rows of which the posterior one is much larger than the others. The antennae consist of about 38 articles and the species has 2+2 prosternal teeth. The head is about as wide as the

third tergite and the tergites 9, 11 and 13 lack posterior projections. The 15th accessory apical claw is absent. Female gonopods have 2+2 spurs and tridentate claw. All the Lithobiomorpha occurring in Belgium can be identified using the key written by EASON (1982).

Distribution and co-occurring species

L. pelidnus has been reported for the Netherlands, where it occurs very locally in the Eastern part of the country (BERG, 1995, 1999). The species also occurs in Northwestern and Southwestern Germany (JEEKEL, 1964; SPELDA, 1991) and Northern France (BRÖLEMANN, 1930). JEEKEL (1964) even referred to an unpublished observation of *L. pelidnus* in Belgium, however, this record was never published and could not be confirmed. From the above literature data, it was expected that *L. pelidnus* would be found in Belgium (LOCK, 2000b).

Co-occurring species in Landbruch were *Lithobius crassipes* (KOCH, 1862), *L. microps* (MEINERT, 1868) and *L. agilis* (KOCH, 1847). *L. crassipes* and *L. microps* are both common species in Belgium and they do not have any specific requirements concerning their habitat (LOCK, 2000b). *L. agilis* is a fairly rare species that seems to be most common in forests on loamy soils (LOCK, 2000b). According to BERG (1999), *L. pelidnus* lives in forest litter, which is in agreement with our observation: in Landbruch the species was found in *Pinus sylvestris* L. litter from a humid pine forest.

Discussion

When the Belgian fauna is compared with that of the Netherlands (BERG, 1995, 1999), Luxembourg (REMY & HOFFMANN, 1960) and North-western Germany (JEEKEL, 1964), undoubtedly some more species can be expected for Belgium such as *Brachyschendyla dentata* (BRÖLEMANN & RIBAUT, 1913), *Clinopodes linearis* (KOCH, 1835), *Dignathodon microcephalum* (LUCAS,

1846), *Geophilus oligopus* (BRÖLEMANN, 1930), *Gnathomerium inopinatum* (RIBAUT, 1910), *Himantarium gabrielis* (LINNAEUS, 1766), *Lithobius erythrocephalus* (KOCH, 1847), *L. lusitanicus* (VERHOEFF, 1925) and *L. subtilis* (LATZEL, 1880).

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