

***Achaearanea tabulata* Levi, 1980 (Araneae Theridiidae):
a rare spider species new to Lithuania**

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Abstract

Recent collecting efforts in Lithuania revealed several specimens of *Achaearanea tabulata* Levi, 1980 a rare Holarctic spider species that was previously unknown to occur in Lithuania. This short contribution comments on this remarkable finding and focuses on the geographical distribution of the species in Europe.

Keywords: *Achaearanea*, Araneae, spiders, Lithuania, faunistics.

Samenvatting

Gedurende recente bemonsteringen in Litouwen werden verschillende exemplaren ontdekt van *Achaearanea tabulata* Levi, 1980, een zeldzame Holarctische kogelspin die niet bekend was van Litouwen. Deze korte bijdrage documenteert deze opmerkelijke vondst en gaat in op de geografische verspreiding van de soort in Europa.

Santrauka

Paskutiniojo vorų olekcionavimo metu buvo aptikta keletas *Achaearanea tabulata* Levi, 1980 individų, kurie yra nauji Lietuvos faunai. *Achaearanea tabulata* dar iki šiol yra neįtraukta į Lietuvoje paplitusių vorų sąrašą. Šio straipsnio tikslas yra atkreipti dėmesį į *Achaearanea tabulata* pasirodymą Lietuvoje ir jų geografinį paplitimą Europoje.

Résumé

Durant un échantillonnage récent en Lituanie, plusieurs individus de *Achaearanea tabulata* furent récoltés. Cette espèce holarctique rare est nouvelle pour la faune Lituanienne. La contribution ci-jointe documente cette découverte remarquable et ajoute des données sur la distribution de cette espèce en Europe.

Introduction

The first author has recently undertaken some short sampling campaigns in different areas in Lithuania, mainly by hand collecting and pitfall trapping. During one of these campaigns, 1 male and 4 females of *Achaearanea tabulata* Levi, 1980 were discovered. This finding is in several aspects remarkable. On the one hand it seems to be a rare spider in Europe with few known records. On the other hand, the species is new for the Lithuanian spider fauna.

***Achaearanea* in Lithuania**

The Lithuanian spider fauna has received quite some attention during the last decade (e.g. RELYS, 1994, 2002; RELYS & DAPKUS, 2001, 2002a, 2002b; VILKAS, 1992, 2004). The most recent checklist of Lithuanian spiders (VILKAS, 2004) mentions the in Europe three common *Achaearanea* species *lunata* (Clerck, 1757), *riparia* (Blackwall, 1834) and *simulans* (Thorell, 1875).

Achaearanea tabulata has now to be added to

the list. 1 male and 4 females were collected in a garden in Dituva, 25 km south of Klaipeda, about 3 km from the Baltic sea (1 female on 24 June 2005, 1 male and 2 females on 28 June 2005, 1 female on 3 July 2005). The collecting habitat was a man-made garden with fruit trees, vegetables and a small brick garden house.

Identification

Achaearenea tabulata is morphologically near to *A. simulans*, *A. tepidariorum* and *A. lunata*. The excellent comparative illustrations of KNOFLACH (1991) clearly show the distinctive characters in male embolus and conductor as well as female epigyne and vulva.

Biology

As most European *Achaearenea* species, *A. tabulata* also demonstrates a strong connection to urban and synanthropic habitats. It is found near buildings and other human constructions. Specimens collected far away from settlements are very rare (KNOFLACH, 1991; SACHER, 1983). In these synanthropic habitats, *A. tabulata* is often found together with other *Achaearenea* species, such as *A. tepidariorum* and *A. riparia* in Austria (KNOFLACH, 1991).

The locality in Lithuania described in this paper confirms clearly the synanthropic habitat preference of *A. tabulata*.

Geographical Distribution

Achaearenea tabulata has originally been described from North America, New York area (LEVI, 1980). Eight years later MORITZ *et al.* (1988) discovered the species in the Berlin area in Europe for the first time. It was then also mentioned from Japan and Korea.

Since then records are known from Austria (KNOFLACH & THALER, 1998), Bulgaria (BLAGOEV *et al.*, 2002), Germany (ALBRECHT, 2002; PLATEN *et al.*, 1995) and Poland (STAREGA, 2004). The species seems however always rare. In Germany for instance only 4 records are known till now. Most are situated in lowland north-eastern Germany not far from the Polish border.

The species does not occur in checklists of Spain, Portugal, Hungary, Czech Republic, Bohemia, Latvia, Sweden, Finland, United Kingdom and The Netherlands (overview of

these checklist in VANUYTVEN, 2005).

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**Une nouvelle espèce d'*Hoplophomerus* BECKER, 1925
de Chine est décrite. La présence d'espèces
d'*Emphysomera* SCHINER, 1866 est citée pour la première fois
au Cambodge (Diptera Asilidae)**

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Abstract

Hoplophomerus guangdongi spec. nov. is described from China and the internal structures of the aedeagus are illustrated. A key for the Oriental species of *Hoplophomerus* is given. *Emphysomera conopsoides* (WIEDEMANN, 1828) and *E. nigra* SCHINER, 1866 are reported for the first time from Cambodia.

Résumé

Une nouvelle espèce de Chine, *Hoplophomerus guangdongi*, est décrite et les structures internes des genitalia mâles sont illustrées. Une clef pour les espèces d'*Hoplophomerus* orientales est présentée. La présence d'*Emphysomera conopsoides* (WIEDEMANN, 1828) et de *E. nigra* SCHINER, 1866 au Cambodge est citée pour la première fois.

Présentation

Hoplophomerus BECKER, 1925 est un petit genre de la sous-famille des Asilinae dont l'espèce type *Asilus armatipe* (MACQUART, 1855) a été décrit ainsi que plusieurs genres voisins, d'après un matériel récolté à Formose par l'expédition Sauter en 1909-1911.

Le genre se distingue des genres voisins par la présence de nombreuses et fortes épines sur les fémurs médians, de là lui vient son étymologie

qui, traduite du Grec, signifie « arme-porter-fémur », TSACAS & OLDROYD (1967). Le genre renferme actuellement 9 espèces dont 3 sont orientales : *H. armatipes* (MACQUART, 1855) connue de Chine et de Taïwan ; *H. brunnipes* TSACAS & OLDROYD, 1967, renseignée au Vietnam et *H. hirtiventris* BECKER, 1925, recensée en Chine Orientale, Taïwan et Bhutan.

HULL (1962) fournit une description du genre ainsi que des croquis de la morphologie externe de l'habitus pour *H. armatipes* et *H. hirtiventris*.