

## ***Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 new to Belgium (Psocoptera: Pseudocaeciliidae)**

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### **Abstract**

On 16.IX.2017, *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 was observed for the first time in Belgium in Parc Tivoli in Mechelen.

**Keywords:** barkflies, Pseudocaeciliidae, Psocoptera, *Trimerocaecilius becheti*

### **Samenvatting**

Op 16.IX.2017 werd *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 voor het eerst in België waargenomen in het Tivolipark te Mechelen.

### **Résumé**

Le 16.IX.2017, *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 a été observé pour la première fois en Belgique au Parc Tivoli à Malines.

### **Introduction**

Psocoptera or barkflies are a small order of insects that received increased attention lately. LIENHARD (1998) reported 72 species from Belgium. Recently, SCHNEIDER & CARRIÈRES (2008) added *Lachesilla bernardi* Badonnel, 1938, LOCK *et al.* (2015) reported *Pteroxanium kelloggi* (Ribaga, 1905) and *Mesopsocus fuscifrons* Meinander, 1966 and LOCK (2017) found *Kolbia quisquiliarum* Bertkau, 1882, *Valenzuela corsicus* (Kolbe, 1882) and *Valenzuela gynapterus* (Tetens, 1891). Here, *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 is added to the Belgian fauna, which brings the total number of species reported from Belgium to 79.

### **Material and methods**

One male of *T. becheti* was collected by the second author in the Tivoli Parc in Mechelen (Province of Antwerp, UTM: 31UFS0356) and preserved in ethanol. The animal was identified by the first author using LIENHARD (1998). The specimen was deposited to the entomological collection of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (I.G.: 33.649).

### **Results**

On 16.IX.2017, one male of *T. becheti* was found by chance on the fence of a garden in Parc Tivoli in Mechelen (Fig. 1). Despite an intensive search by the first author on 20.IX.2017, no additional specimens could be found.



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 (Photo: Jan Soors).



Fig. 2. Right forewing of *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 (Photo: Koen Lock).



Fig. 3. Dorsal view of phallosome *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 (Photo: Koen Lock).

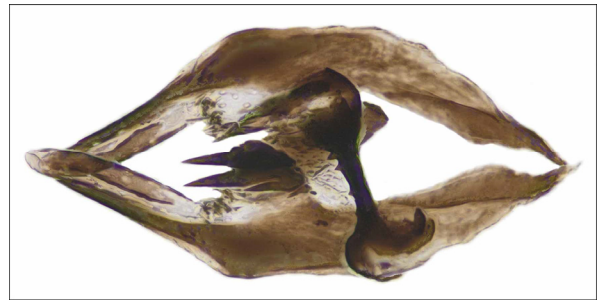


Fig. 4. Lateral view of phallosome *Trimerocaecilius becheti* Meinander, 1978 (Photo: Koen Lock).

The tarsi consist of three segments. The species is macropterous and the areola postica is present in the forewings, but not joined to the median vein (Fig. 2). The common stem of the cubital and the median vein possesses two rows of hairs (Fig. 2). The forewings of 2.0-2.5 mm are brown with darker patches at the areola postica and the tip of the pterostigma (Fig. 2). The subgenital plate of the female ends in two lobes and bears a dark U-shaped mark. The phallosome has a strongly sclerotised frame and the endophallus possesses a median sclerite which bears numerous denticles and a pair of strongly sclerotised pointed rods on the inside (Figs 3-4).

### Discussion

*Trimerocaecilius becheti* lives on bark of trees and bushes covered with lichens. It is a Mediterranean species that has been reported from Romania, Israel, Cyprus, Greece and Italy (LIENHARD, 1998), but more recently also in Seignosse in the Landes Department in France (DAUPHIN, 2002). Since only one specimen was found in Belgium, it seems probable that it was accidentally introduced, possibly with plant material used in the herb garden.

Although *T. becheti* is currently harboured under the family Pseudocaeciliidae, it equally resembles Elipsocidae and Philotarsidae and a dedicated study is required to determine the correct phylogeny (LIENHARD, 1998).

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