

Stenochrus portoricensis new to the Czech Republic (Schizomida, Hubbardiidae)

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Abstract: A schizomid, *Stenochrus portoricensis* Chamberlin, 1922 (family Hubbardiidae), was collected in a greenhouse in Brno. This is the first discovery of a schizomid from the Czech Republic.

Key words: Faunistics, greenhouse, introduced species

The named world schizomid fauna comprises 38 genera and 218 species, but numerous species from many parts of the world have yet to be described (HARVEY 2003). In nature schizomids are exclusively known from tropical and subtropical regions, but three species have been recorded from greenhouses in Europe: *Schizomus crassicaudatus* (O. P.-Cambridge, 1872) from Sri Lanka was imported to France and *Zomus bagnallii* (Jackson, 1908) from South-east Asia was introduced to Great Britain (BLICK 2006). Recently, we collected *Stenochrus portoricensis* Chamberlin, 1922 within a greenhouse in the Czech Republic. *Stenochrus portoricensis* naturally occurs in Mexico and the Caribbean (ROWLAND & REDDELL 1980, MARTÍN & OROMÍ 1984, REDDELL & COKENDOLPHER 1995, TOURINHO & KURY 1999), but has been accidentally introduced into many countries of North and South America (Brazil, Ecuador and Florida) and even in Europe: Spain (Canary Islands – politically, but not geographically, a part of Europe), Great Britain and Germany (BLICK 2006, COKENDOLPHER et al. 2006). In continental Europe, the species occurs only in heated greenhouses, whereas the Canary Islands populations came from caves and inside houses (MARTÍN & OROMÍ 1992, OROMÍ & MARTÍN 1992).

Stenochrus portoricensis Chamberlin, 1922

Diagnosis and description: From the other two schizomid genera (*Zomus* and *Schizomus*) found in Europe, *Stenochrus* is distinguished by the combi-

nation of the following characters: female flagellum with three segments (Fig. 1), anterior process of propeltidium with only one pair of setae arranged one behind the other (Fig. 2), metapeltidium entire (Fig. 2), movable cheliceral finger without accessory teeth (Fig. 3), and by a mesal spur on the trochanter of the pedipalp (Fig. 4).

Stenochrus portoricensis can be distinguished from other species of the genus by the characters of the internal genitalia of females (see ROWLAND & REDDELL 1980, figs 46–53; SANTOS et al. 2008, fig. 8). Detailed diagnoses and descriptions can be found in ROWLAND & REDDELL (1980), TOURINHO & KURY (1999), ARMAS (2004) and SANTOS et al. (2008).

Material

Greenhouse, Botanical Garden of the Masaryk University, 310 m a.s.l., Brno (49°12'17"N, 16°35'47"E), 22 October 2008, 1 ♀, 1 juv ♀, leg. S. Korenko; same site, 15 January 2009, 2 ♀ ♀, 1 juv ♀, leg. S. Korenko, E. Líznavá & L. Sentenská; same site, 28. January 2009, 3 ♀ ♀, 2 juv ♀ ♀, leg. S. Korenko, E. Líznavá & L. Sentenská; same site, 5 ♀ ♀, 4 juv ♀ ♀, 5 February 2009 leg. S. Korenko & S. Pekár (specimens lodged in the Masaryk University, Brno and Western Australian Museum, Perth).

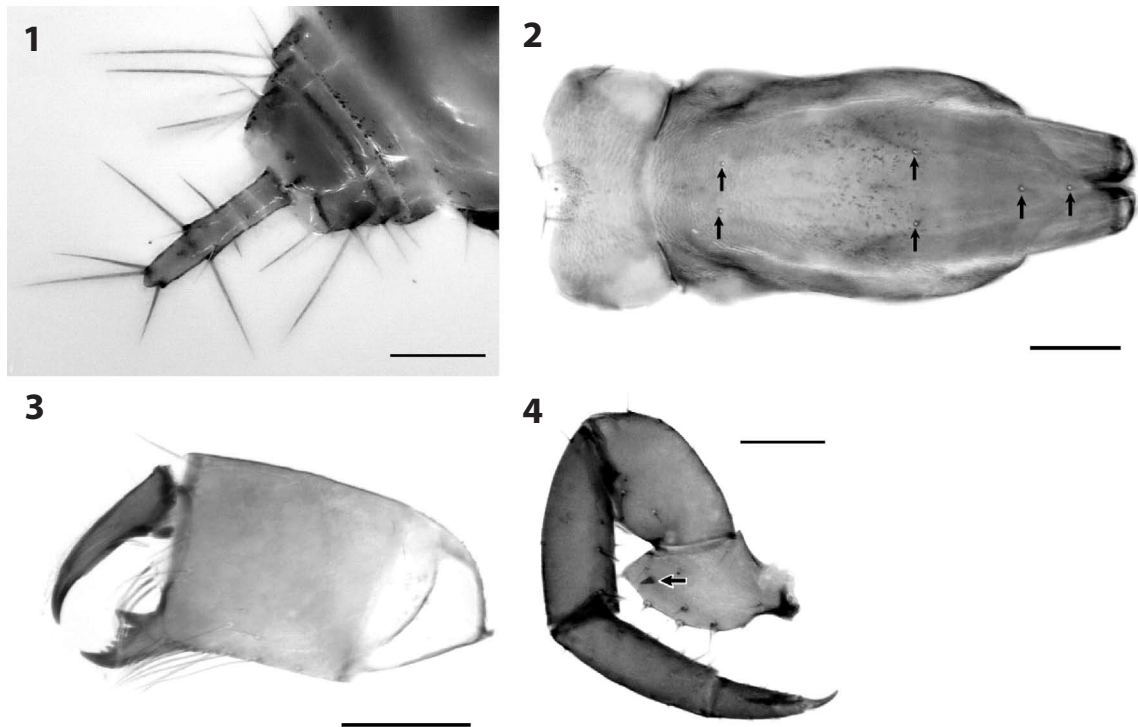
Natural History

We found specimens under pieces of bark lying on wet soil. In America, *S. portoricensis* has been collected in abandoned arboreal termite nests in a cocoa plantation (SANTOS et al. 2008), termite and ant nests (REDDELL & COKENDOLPHER 1995), disturbed habitats (TOURINHO & KURY 1999), caves (ROWLAND & REDDELL 1980), and under rocks of an urbanised beach and in litter in metropolitan Rio de Janeiro (SANTOS et al. 2008).

In the laboratory specimens readily fed exclusively on collembolans. In the greenhouse we found also thysanurans, ants and spiders in the litter so these might be preyed upon too. SANTOS et al. (2008) found this

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Figs. 1-4: Female of *Stenochrus portoricensis*. **1.** Flagellum (dorsal view). **2.** Propeltidium with one pair of setae arranged one behind the other (dorsal view). Arrows point to the position of setae. **3.** Chelicerae (lateral view). **4.** Right pedipalp (prolateral view). Arrow points to the mesal spur of patella. Scales = 0.1 (A) and 0.2 (B-D) mm.

species within ant and termite nests, where it possibly feeds on woodlice, collembolans, beetles, termites or ants.

All collected specimens (N = 19) were juveniles or females, suggesting that the population may be parthenogenetic. Males of this species are not commonly collected (ROWLAND & REDDELL 1980, REDDELL & COKENDOLPHER 1995, ARMAS 2004), and in many parts of its range the species is presumably facultatively parthenogenetic (REDDELL & COKENDOLPHER 1995). *Stenochrus portoricensis* might be widely distributed in greenhouses throughout Europe; therefore, faunistic surveys would be welcome.

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