

Amilenus aurantiacus (Simon, 1881), a harvestman (Opiliones) new to the Czech Republic

Amilenus aurantiacus (Simon, 1881) nový sekáč (Opiliones) pro Českou republiku

We dedicate this contribution to our excellent colleague Ivo Těšál (April 12, 1956 – November 7, 2020).
Tento příspěvek věnujeme skvělému kolegovi Ivo Těšálovi (12. 4. 1956 – 7. 11. 2020).

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Abstract: We report here the first record of harvestman *Amilenus aurantiacus* (Simon, 1881) from the Czech Republic. Three specimens of this species with an Alpine-Dinaric distribution were discovered in material collected in the Šumava Mountains, southwestern Czech Republic in 2013.

Abstrakt: V tomto příspěvku předkládáme informace o prvním nález sekáče *Amilenus aurantiacus* (Simon, 1881) v České republice. Tři exempláře tohoto druhu s alpsko-dinárským rozšířením byly objeveny v materiálu shromážděném na Šumavě, v jihozápadní části České republiky, v roce 2013.

Key words: harvestmen, Opiliones, *Amilenus aurantiacus*, Czech Republic

INTRODUCTION

Amilenus aurantiacus (Simon, 1881) belongs to the monotypic genus *Amilenus* Martens, 1969 in the family Phalangidae. Its range extends from the western French Alps through the former Balkans to northern Greece. The female and juvenile cannot be confused with other harvestman species due to the dark lyre-like pattern (mirrored 'z') on its back, which is pronounced in females and less pronounced in males.

In November 2021 we discovered three specimens of *Amilenus aurantiacus* while processing harvestman collections gathered by Ivo Těšál in the Šumava Mountains (southwestern part of the Czech Republic) in 2013 and deposited in our museum. In this contribution we provide information on this interesting find.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

MATERIAL EXAMINED:

Czech Republic, Bohemia occid., Šumava, Prášily env., Frauenthal, 22 Jun 2013, 1♀ (Figure 1.); 25 Sept 2013, 2 juv (sifting leaf litter), leg. I. Těšál, det. P. Bezděčka, coll. Muzeum Vysočiny Jihlava. Details of altitude and habitat are not known. The specimens are preserved in 70% ethanol.

Harvestman *A. aurantiacus* has to date been reported from France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Albania and Greece (summarized in Zaenker et al. 2016). A report from the Low Tatras in Slovakia (Kratochvíl 1934) is questionable owing to absence of voucher material (Martens 1978).

The species occurs in montane or submontane areas, inhabiting mainly mountainous beech forests and also sub-mountainous coniferous forests and floodplains (Mar-



Figure 1.: Adult female of *A. aurantiacus* from the locality of Frauenthal. The lyre-like pattern on its abdomen is well-developed.

Obrázek 1.: Dospělá samice z *A. aurantiacus* z lokality Frauenthal. Na abdomenu je patrná dobře vyvinutá lyrovitá kresba.

tens 1978, Zaenker et al. 2016). During the season it stays under leaves, stones and wood, but sometimes also in moist vegetation and on tree trunks. In winter it takes refuge in cave and crevice systems with temperatures not much below freezing, therefore it is considered to be a subtroglophile (see Zaenker et al. 2016).

The Czech specimens of this harvestman were collected during a survey of invertebrates in the Šumava Mountains by Ivo Těšál in the summer of 2013. One female and two juveniles were found in Šumava National Park Zone I, at a locality stated as “Prášily env., Frauenthal”. Unfortunately, more exact information on habitat and other conditions is not available. The area includes a flat basin in the middle course of the Křemelná river, near the site of the former glassworks village of Frauenthal. The altitude is between about 800 and 900 m. Potential natural vegetation according to Neuhäuslová et al. (2001) would mainly consist of various types of spruce and beech forests, presently mostly transformed into spruce monocultures.

It is likely that *A. aurantiacus* also lives in other mountain

regions of the Czech Republic. This assumption is supported not only by the records from the Šumava Mountains mentioned above, but also by finds from the Zittau Mountains, just beyond the state border in the vicinity of the Lusatian Mountains (Lužické hory).

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