



**First record of *Strigamia pusilla* from the Czech Republic  
(Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha)  
První nález zemivky *Strigamia pusilla* z území České republiky  
(Chilopoda: Geophilomorpha)**

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**Abstrakt:** Zemivka *Strigamia pusilla* (Sseliwanoff, 1884) byla nalezena poprvé na území ČR, konkrétně v NPR Mazák (CHKO Beskydy). Jedná se o čtvrtý druh daného rodu známého z Česka. Její rozšíření a klíčové znaky jsou uvedeny.

**Abstract:** The centipede *Strigamia pusilla* (Sseliwanoff, 1884) was found for the first time in the Czech Republic in the Mazák National Nature Reserve, the Beskydy Protected Landscape Area. It is the fourth species of the genus *Strigamia* known from the territory of the Czech Republic. Information about its distribution and key characters are added.

## INTRODUCTION

Centipede genus *Strigamia* Gray, 1843 is rather a complicated taxon from the family Linotaeniidae (Chilopoda, Geophilomorpha), which needs taxonomical revision. Its distribution is Holarctic. Altogether, 44 valid species are recognized recently (BONATO et al. 2012), among them 12 species are distributed in Europe (BONATO & MINELLI 2013). Nevertheless, another 31 species and subspecies announced in past from Europe are synonymised with valid European species. Moreover, half of those dozen valid species were not described properly according to modern demands on the description of geophilomorph centipedes, so their validity is uncertain because their morphology is inadequately known (BONATO et al. 2010).

There were three species of the genus *Strigamia* known from the Czech Republic (TUF & TUFOVÁ 2008), *Strigamia acuminata* (Leach, 1815), *Strigamia crassipes* (C. L. Koch, 1835) and *Strigamia transsylvanica* (Verhoeff, 1928). All these three species are widely distributed

through Bohemia and Moravia (TUF & LAŠKA 2005). This paper reports the first record of another species of this genus from the territory of the Czech Republic.

## MATERIAL

*Strigamia pusilla* (Sseliwanoff, 1884): 1 male (33 pairs of legs) and 1 female (35 pairs of legs) – the Czech Republic, Moravia, Beskydy Protected Landscape Area, Mazák National Nature Reserve, debris of wood (*Tilio-Acerion* plant association) in NW part of the reserve, N:49°32'32,985", E:18°26'19,182", faunistic square code 6476D, 10.ix.2012, Jiří Kupka leg.

## DISCUSSION

All species of the genus *Strigamia* occurring on the territory of the Czech Republic are recognised as valid and certain. Distribution of *S. acuminata* and *S. crassipes* is throughout the whole Europe to the Caucasus. Distribution of *S. transsylvanica* is connected with the Carpathians, but extends to the entire Alps, to the Baltic, and the mainland of Greece respec-

Fig. 1: Plant communities of debris woods are unique due to its specific soil conditions as well as specific microclimate. Orig. Jiří Kupka.  
Obr. 1: Vegetace suťových lesů je unikátní jak díky specifickým půdním vlastnostem, tak kvůli odlišnému mikroklimatu. Orig. Jiří Kupka.



ctively. Distribution of *S. pusilla* is going from the Sudeten through the Carpathians to Siberia and Central Asia. It was reported from Slovakia, Poland, Romania, Russia and Mongolia yet. Recently it was redescribed and in detail illustrated by DÁNYI (2006).

It is rather common to find more species of this genus together on the same locality. Also the Mazák National Nature Reserve is occupied by at least three species of the *Strigamia*, namely *S. crassipes* (1 male), and *S. acuminata* (1 female, 3 juv.) were collected here during the same sampling occasion as well. The investigated part of forest is one of the oldest growths on territory of the given Nature Reserve (Fig. 1).

Centipedes of the genus *Strigamia* are well recognizable among our centipedes. Its body colour is usually orange, dark red or at least dark

brown-yellow. They are frequently active on soil ground, so it is not unusual to catch them using the pitfall traps. Their forcipulae (appendages of the first trunk segment, used for catching a prey) are wide, with well-developed basal denticle on its claw. The species *S. pusilla* is characterised by low number of pairs of legs and by the morphology of the last pleuropretergite, which is divided, i.e. its intercalary pleurites are not joined with ultimate pretergite, as usual in other species.

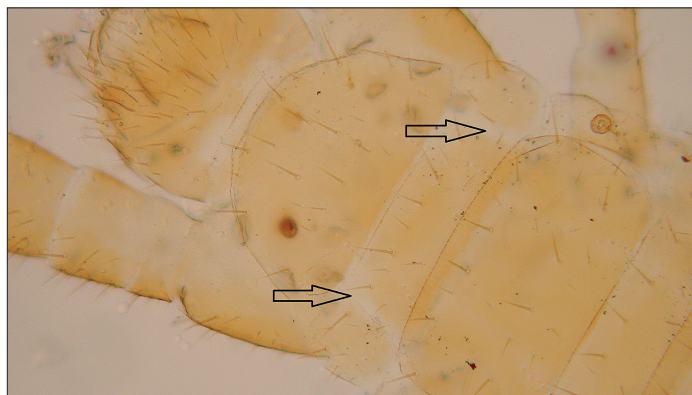


Fig. 2: Dorsal site of posterior part of body of male of *Strigamia pusilla*. Arrows indicate division of last pleuropretergite. Orig. László Dányi.

Obr. 2: Hřbetní strana zadního konce těla samce zemivky *Strigamia pusilla*. Šipky označují rozdělení poslední pleuropretergity. Orig. László Dányi.

## IDENTIFICATION KEY FOR THE STRIGAMIA SPECIES REPORTED FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

- 1A Ultimate pleuropretergite entire, number of pairs of legs 37 and more ..... 2  
 1B Ultimate pleuropretergite divided into three parts (Fig. 2), number of pairs of legs up to 35...  
 ..... *S. pusilla*  
*S. pusilla*; maximum body length 24 mm, pairs of legs 33–35
- 2A Number of pairs of legs 45 and more ..... 3  
 2B Number of pairs of legs 37–43 ..... *S. acuminata*  
*S. acuminata*; maximum body length 40 mm, pairs of legs 37–43
- 3A Anterior sterna with well-developed longitudinal fissure in the middle, number of coxal pores 12–30 ..... *S. crassipes*  
*S. crassipes*; maximum body length 56 mm, pairs of legs 45–59
- 3B Anterior sterna with discrete shallow longitudinal cavity, number of coxal pores 4–9 .....  
 ..... *S. transsilvanica*  
*S. transsilvanica*; maximum length body 38 mm, pairs of legs 45–57

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