

***ARMADILLIDIUM PULCHELLUM* (ZENKER, 1798), A NEW RECORD OF PILL WOODLOUSE (CRUSTACEA: ISOPODA: ONISCIDEA) FOR THE FAUNA OF BELARUS**

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ABSTRACT

Findings of *Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798), a new species of woodlouse of the family Armadillidiidae for the fauna of Belarus, are analyzed. The material was collected in August 2007 in Minsk Region. Data on distribution of the species are given.

INTRODUCTION

Among the edaphic organisms, terrestrial isopods are fundamental representatives of the soil fauna, playing an important role in decomposition of leaf litter and in mineralizing organic matter (Sutton, 1980). Despite the fact that representatives of this group are extremely widespread and well visible, they are rather poorly studied in our country. Until now, 2 publications reported about Belorussian woodlice. Maximova (2005) mentioned only 4 species of woodlice from Belarus; Kuznetsova & Gongalsky (2012) published data about 8 species from different localities, two of which are now considered to be synonymous, which leaves 7 species. The Fauna Europaea database (Boxshall, 2013) contains a single species of terrestrial isopod – *Oniscus asellus* Linnaeus, 1758. However, these check-lists are not based on known publications or collections and their presence should be evaluated as doubtful or anticipated. This implies that the full species composition of woodlice of Belarus has not been clarified to yet.

RESULTS

Section CRINOCHEETA

Family ARMADILLIDIIDAE Brandt, 1833

***Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798)**

Material examined

Fig. 1. 2♀♀ mars., Republic of Belarus, Minsk Region, vill. Goncharovka, 22.viii.2007, O.R. Aleksandrowicz leg., A.M. Ostrovsky det., 2018. The samples treated above have been deposited in the author's collection.

Distribution

Fig. 2. Europe except the Mediterranean and southeastern regions (Schmalzfuss, 2003). Currently known from Belgium, British Isles, Czech Republic, Danish mainland, Finland, French mainland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Northern Ireland, Norwegian mainland, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Kaliningrad Region of Russia and Zhytomyr Region of Ukraine [Spungis, 2008; Šatkauskienė, 2017; Tuf *et al.*, 2014; Vilisics *et al.*, 2012a, 2012b; Hopkin, 1991; Harding, Sutton, 1985; Riedel *et al.*, 2009; Vandel, 1962; Vilisics & Terhivuo, 2009; Štrichelová & Tuf, 2012; Khaynatska & Garbar, 2015; Weber, 2013; Séchet & Noël, 2015; Noël & Séchet, 2007;

Alexander, 2000; Berg, 1997; Berg & Wijnhoven, 1997; Gruner, 1966; Wouters *et al.*, 2000; Jedryczkowski, 1981; Urbański, 1952; Malinkova, 2009].

Remarks

The family Armadillidiidae, the genus *Armadillidium* Brandt, 1831, as well as the widespread, often introduced *A. pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798), are new to the woodlice fauna of Belarus, currently reported from anthropogenic habitats. The finding of *A. pulchellum* is probably evidence of the continued spread of this species into the east of Europe. Its colonisation into new habitats is possible, for example, with the soil brought with planting material.



Figure 1: *Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798), from Belarus, general view.

CONCLUSIONS

The family, genus and species of the Pill Woodlouse are formally new to Belorussia's list: Armadillidiidae, *Armadillidium* Brandt, 1831, and *Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798). This species is probably introduced through human activity.

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Figure 2: Distribution map of *Armadillidium pulchellum* (Zenker, 1798) in West Palearctic region with new date from Belarus (grey – species present; white – absent; black dot – new record)

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