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Disparalona hamata (Birge, 1879) (Crustacea, Anomopoda) – the second record from Europe

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Disparalona hamata (Birge, 1879) (Crustacea, Branchiopoda, Anomopoda) was found in the plankton of Slovakian lowlands. This is the first record from Slovak territory and the second record from Europe. The species was recorded in the North and South America, South Asia and Africa (SMIRNOV, 1996). So far the only European record was reported from the Czech Republic by ŠRÁMEK-HUŠEK (1946), who labelled the species as *Pleuroxus striatoides* n. sp. and synonymised it with *Pleuroxus chappuisi* Brehm, 1934 in ŠRÁMEK-HUŠEK (1962). The author supposed that it was introduced to Europe from tropical area. SMIRNOV (1971)

regarded the name *Pleuroxus chappuisi* as a younger synonym *Pleuroxus hamatus* Birge, 1879 (subspecies *P. hamatus hamatus* Birge, 1879). HRBÁČEK et al. (1978) included the species into the genus *Alonella* as *Alonella hamulata* (Birge in Limnofauna Europea). SMIRNOV (1996) transferred the species in the genus *Disparalona* Fryer, 1968. Nevertheless FLÖSSNER (2000) preferred again the genus *Alonella*.

Material examined: Podunajská nížina lowland – Istragovské rameno arm (47°53' N, 17°37' N, the Gabčíkovo village; 2.X.2003) – over 41 specimens and

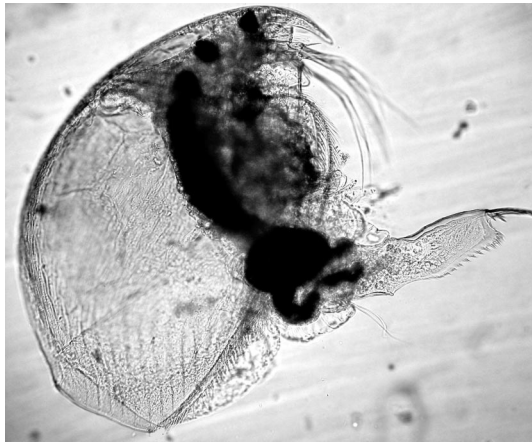


Fig. 1. *Disparalona hamata* (Birge, 1879), parthenogenetic female.

2 ephippial females (all in collection of second author). Istragov arm is a partially abandoned side arm (r. km 1815,5), situated 5 km upstream from the confluence of the tail-race canal with the old Danube.

Characteristics of Slovakian population

The body shape of mature females (Fig. 1) similar to g. *Pleuroxus*, but head is small and corresponds with genus *Disparalona* or *Alonella*. IPD: 0,8–1 it is more similar to *Alonella* and *Disparalona* than to *Pleuroxus*. Carapace with longitudinal lines near postero-ventral and antero-ventral margins. Dense short striae between lines covering all cuticular surface including head shield. Postero-ventral angle without denticles but with 7–10 short spinule-like setae (similar spinules in *Picripleuroxus laevis* (Sars, 1862) behind the posterior denticle). Shape and size of lateral antennula seta corresponds with *Pleuroxus (Peracantha) truncatus* (O. F. Müller, 1785). Spine arrangement of antenna corresponds with *Alonella* (2 long ones on distal segments and one short on 1st segment). Labral plate large triangular and blunt pointed (resemble *P. truncatus*). Postabdomen elongate and narrow resembling more

Pleuroxus denticulatus Birge, 1879 than that of the genus *Alonella*, and never that of the European species *Disparalona rostrata* (Koch, 1841). The 1st trunk limb: IDL has one thick and heavy sclerotized hooked seta corresponding to *Disparalona hamata*.

The second author prepares another more detailed paper with the comparison of African populations described as *Pleuroxus chappuisi*.

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