

First record of *Polydesmus inconstans* Latzel, 1884 (Diplopoda, Polydesmidae) in Slovakia

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The millipede fauna of the synanthropic biotopes in Slovakia has not previously been intensively studied. Many millipede taxa are able to spread far from their area of natural origin by surviving in disturbed, by humans influenced habitats. Investigations in neighbouring countries (e.g. JEDRYCZKOWSKI, 1996; KORSÓS, 2002) show that we can also expect non-uniform millipede communities in similar sites in Slovakia. During ongoing research of soil macrofauna in various types of anthropogenic habitats in the town of Košice, E Slovakia the interesting polydesmid millipede, *Polydesmus inconstans* Latzel, 1884 was found.

Material examined: E Slovakia, Košice (48°46' N, 21°14' E, grid reference of the Databank of Fauna of Slovakia DFS 7293c). City park at the railway station with various deciduous trees, sifted from leaf litter found in holes raked by dogs in the arranged lawns, 27.III.2001, 1 ♀; 3.IV.2001, 5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀, 4 juvenile ♀♀ (postembryonic stadia IV and VII), leg. et det. A. Mock. The material is deposited in the collection of the author. This represents the first report on *Polydesmus inconstans* from Slovakia.

Remarks on morphology and systematics: A small species (length: 10 mm, width: 1.1 mm), similar in size to the common *Brachydesmus superus* Latzel, 1884, but *P. inconstans* is dark brown in colour with distinctively clear, prominent dorsal sculpture. Male gonopods are similar to those of *Polydesmus gallicus* Latzel, 1884 (syn. *P. coriaceus* Porat, 1870) but without the spine on the internal face of the telopodite. This similarity caused confusion in identification in older published data. Both species can be distinguished fairly easily by colour and body size. In females the shape of the epigyne is also distinctive, with a median prominence in *P. inconstans* (BLOWER, 1985). *Polydesmus inconstans* belongs to the subgenus *Nomarchus* Attems, 1940, family Polydesmidae, order Polydesmida (ATTEMS, 1940). The only related species of the same subgenus in the Slovak fauna is *P. denticulatus* C. L. Koch, 1847, which occupies natural and also human influenced habitats (MOCK, 2001).

Distribution: This species occurs in natural habitats in W and N Europe, from France to Austria, W Bohemia, W Poland and to Scandinavia. It also occurs in South Finland, Estonia, Russia and Ukraine, but only in the synanthropic localities. The species was in-

roduced into Iceland and North America (BLOWER, 1985).

Association with mites: On the ventral side of the body (usually on the prefemur) of several specimens of *P. inconstans* we found phoretic stadia of acarid mites *Rhizoglyphus echinopus* (Fumouze et Robin, 1868). The occurrence of mites on *P. inconstans* was noted by SNIDER (1984). She noticed hypop of Acariidae non det. on 2.7% of the population of the millipedes in a beech-maple woodlot in Michigan (U.S.A.).

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