

**First record of the bush-cricket *Phaneroptera nana nana*
(Orthoptera: Tettigoniidae) in the Czech Republic**

Robert Vlk

Phaneroptera nana FIEBER, 1853 is a Circum-Mediterranean species (THORENS & NADIG 1997) with the northern edge of its range in central Europe. Although it is known from Burgenland and Hungary for a long time (HARZ 1969), HOLUŠA & VIDLIČKA (1997) reported the occurrence of *Phaneroptera nana* from south-western Slovakia for the first time in 1994 (one male caught in southern Slovakia already in 1962 is deposited in the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava). Until now there were no references concerning its occurrence in the Czech Republic (as a part of the former Czechoslovakia) (KOČÁREK et al. 1999).

On 28 October 1992, two males of *Phaneroptera* were observed and one was caught on the bank of a water reservoir (Střední novomlýnská nádrž) near the village of Strachotín (faunistic field 7065, see PRUNNER & MIKA 1996), as a sample of very late autumn occurrence of *Phaneroptera falcata* (PODA, 1761), which is a common species in south-eastern Moravia (CHLÁDEK 1993). Later, after the correct identification of the male as *Phaneroptera nana nana* (Vlk leg., det. et coll.), the possible introduction from Austria could not be excluded because both males were observed sitting on the front of a red car with a number plate of Burgenland. On 11 November 2001, another male of *Phaneroptera nana*, was found dead (hit by a car) on the road along the same lake near the village of Pouzdřany (7065), about 2 km from the first locality (Vlk leg., det. et coll.). This confirmed the occurrence of *Phaneroptera nana* in the Czech Republic.

Both localities are situated at southern slopes of the northern bank of the complex of three large lakes built near the village of Nové Mlýny (Novomlýnské nádrže). The slopes are covered by bushes or young trees. Originally, before the lakes were built and flooded, *Quercus* spp., *Ulmus carpinifolia*, *Acer campestre*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Euonymus* spp., etc. were probably dominant species. At present, invasive species such as *Robinia pseudoacacia*, *Acer negundo*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Rosa* spp., *Salix* spp. have colonised these habitats.

In 1994, HOLUŠA & VIDLIČKA (1997) recorded the flight activity of *Phaneroptera nana* using Malaise traps in south-western Slovakia, from the beginning of August to the end of September, with the peak in the first half of September. It means, that both records in south-eastern Moravia (northern edge of the range of the species) are very late in the season. The species is a thamnobiont (RÁCZ 1998), feeding on the leaves of deciduous trees and shrubs as well as laying eggs into the leaves (BEY-BIENKO 1954) and is only occasionally found on the ground (there is no suitable recording method). But after the end of warm period (first half of October) the surviving adults can be found on the ground or walls (authors

experience from southern Tyrol in Italy) attracted by the heat emitted from the surface (including cars parked in the sun).

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