

***Pseudicius epiblemoides* (Araneae : Salticidae) in Central Europe**

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Abstract: *Pseudicius epiblemoides* (Araneae: Salticidae) in Central Europe. A new record of this rare south-eastern European species is presented which represents the northernmost and westernmost locality and the second one in Central Europe. A detailed description of its diagnostic characters is given.

Key words: Araneae, Salticidae, *Pseudicius epiblemoides*, distribution, diagnostic characters, Czech Republic.

INTRODUCTION

Pseudicius epiblemoides (CHYZER in CHYZER & KULCZYNSKI 1891) was described from two localities within the former Austro-Hungarian Empire: from Szomotor (now Somotor) which now lies within the Slovak Republic and Új-Moldova (now Moldova Nouă) which now lies within Romania. These facts have caused subsequent mistakes in some catalogues (ROEWER 1954, BONNET 1957) and faunal lists (METZNER 1999) where Hungary is erroneously stated among the countries of distribution. The problem was, however, discussed and solved by FUHN & GHERASIM (1984). Later this species was collected again in Romania: Cotmeana (FUHN & GHERASIM 1984) as well as in Croatia, Macedonia (NIKOLIĆ & POLENEC 1981) and Greece: Peloponnes (METZNER 1999 as *Afraflacilla epiblemoides*).

The reasons for preference of *Pseudicius* before *Afraflacilla* until each species will be individually checked before transferring are given by PRÓSZYŃSKI (1999). In addition, of the 15 or 16 species listed in catalogues by PRÓSZYŃSKI (1999) and PLATNICK (2000) respectively only 4 or 5 species were described and are known in both sexes. Therefore, the confirmation of simultaneous occurrence of long embolus, often encircling tegulum in a male and long, coiled insemination ducts in a female (cf. ŽABKA 1993, METZNER 1999) is not possible.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two males of *Pseudicius epiblemoides* were collected in Lednice (Czech Republic, southern Moravia, mapping grid code 7166, altitude 173 m) on August 8, 2000. The sampling locality belongs to the warmest places within the Czech Republic with a mean day temperature of 9 °C (QUITT 1971). Both specimens were collected on trunks of old oaks near a pond, at a height of about 170 cm. One of the males was captured along with the prey it had grabbed, i.e. the midge *Camptochironomus tentans* (FABRICIUS, 1805). The material is preserved in the private collection of the author.

DESCRIPTION

Both specimens (mentioned as #1 and #2) differ slightly in some characters. The known material is scarce and very few drawings are given in the literature. Some important characters like tubercles on carapace and femur I were never adequately described and no drawings were published. Nevertheless these characters as well as male pedipalps and female genital organs may be particularly important for the systematic status of the genera *Icius*, *Pseudicius* and *Afraflacilla*, which have been variably interpreted and discussed by many authors (e.g. CLARK 1974, ANDREEVA, HEÇIAK & PRÓSZYŃSKI 1984, MADDISON 1987, PRÓSZYŃSKI 1992, 1999, ŽABKA 1993, METZNER 1999).

Colour: The colour and markings (Fig.1A) in both specimens are essentially the same but male #2 is darker. This is caused by more worn-out hairs on the prosoma and ophistosoma as well as by darker and broader streaks on legs I and II.

Pedipalps (Fig. 1B): Dark brown. Cymbium almost straight, slightly kidney-shaped. Embolus long, arising in a 2 o'clock position, half encircling the tegulum. Tibial apophysis bifurcate, dorsal ramus short, ventral ramus irregularly serrated (# 1) or undulated (#2). The form of the tibial apophysis is very similar to the drawing by FUHN & GHERASIM (1984), but slightly different in comparison with drawings given by PRÓSZYŃSKI (1997) or METZNER (1999, Tafel 54 c).

Stridulatory tubercles (Fig. 1C,D): Carapace laterally with a row of 9 tubercles below eyes, femur I in the male # 1 with 4 tubercles plus one additional tubercle just antero-dorsal, in the male # 2 there are 5 tubercles in the row which is approximately parallel to the axis of the leg.

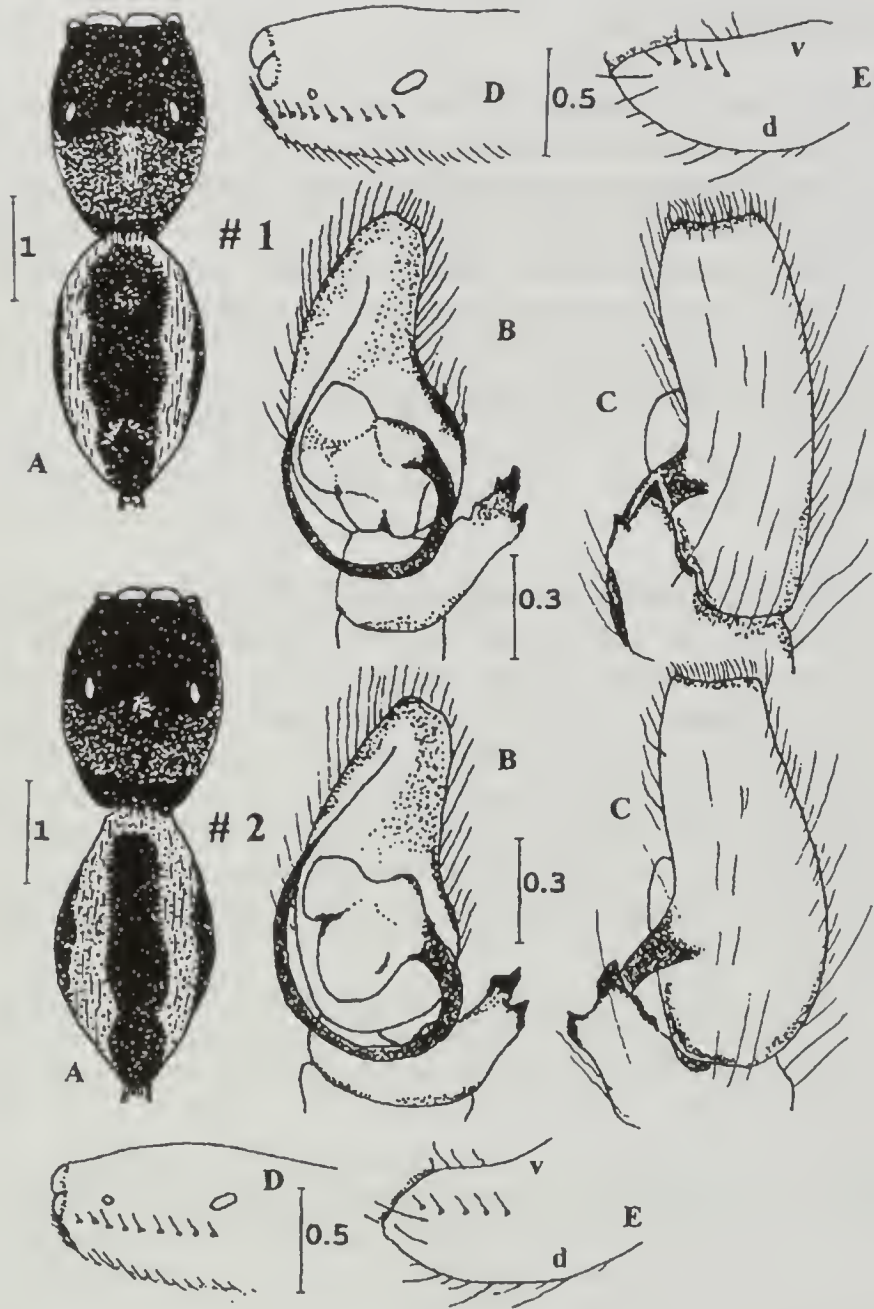


Fig.1: *Pseudicius epiblemoides*, males #1 and #2

A - general appearance; B - pedipalp and tibial apophysis ventral; C - pedipalp and tibial apophysis retrolateral; D - tubercles on carapace; E - tubercles on femur I (d = dorsal, v = ventral). Scale in mm

Abb.1: *Pseudicius epiblemoides*, Männchen #1 und #2

A - Habitus; B - Pedipalpus und Tibialapophyse ventral; C - Pedipalpus und Tibialapophyse retrolateral; D - Höcker am Prosoma; E - Höcker am Femur I (d = dorsal, v = ventral). Maßstab in mm.

DISTRIBUTION IN CENTRAL EUROPE

There are recorded only two Central European localities of *Pseudicius epiblemoides*. The first one is the locus typicus, i.e. Somotor in southern Slovakia, grid mapping code 7596. Because the species has not been recorded again for more than 100 years, it is classified as extinct within the Slovak Republic (GAJDOŠ, SVATOŇ & SLOBODA 1999). The second locality in Lednice, southern Moravia, grid mapping code 7166, is described in the present paper. All other known localities of the rare *Pseudicius epiblemoides* lie south of 45°N Lat, i.e. in southern or south-eastern Europe.

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Art *Pseudicius epiblemoides* war in Mitteleuropa bisher nur aus dem locus typicus bekannt, d.h. aus Somotor (jetzt in der Slowakischen Republik), Code der Rasterkartierung 7596. In der vorliegenden Arbeit ist ein neuer Fund zweier Männchen gemeldet: Lednice (Tschechische Republik, Südmähren), Code der Rasterkartierung 7166. Es handelt sich um den nördlichsten und westlichsten Fundort der Art. Da im Somotor die Art mehr als 100 Jahre nicht mehr gefunden wurde, gilt die Art *Pseudicius epiblemoides* in der Slowakischen Republik als ausgestorben (GAJDOŠ, SVATOŇ & SLOBODA 1999). Alle weiteren bisher bekannte Lokalitäten der Art liegen südlich 45° nördl.Br., also in Süd- oder Südost-Europa. Die Variabilität der wichtigsten diagnostischen Merkmalen ist abgebildet.

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