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A review of records of the skipper *Carterocephalus silvicolus* from the territory of the Czech and Slovak Republics (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae)

Přehled nálezů soumračníka *Carterocephalus silvicolus* z území České a Slovenské republiky (Lepidoptera: Hesperiidae)

Tomáš KURAS[1)] & Jiří BENEŠ[2)]

[1)]Department of Ecology, Palacký University, Tř. Svobody 26,
CZ-771 46 Olomouc, Czech Republic
[2)]Department of Zoology, Palacký University, Tř. Svobody 26,
CZ-771 46 Olomouc, Czech Republic

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Abstract. A list of records of the skipper *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (Meigen, 1829) from the Czech and Slovak Republics is given. Altogether 17 specimens are registered - 3 from Bohemia, 6 from Moravia and 8 from Slovakia. The nearest localities from southern Poland are mentioned, and the possibility of the autochthone presence of *C. silvicolus* in the Czech and Slovak Republics is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

The occurrence of the Eurosiberian skipper *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (Meigen, 1829) in the Czech Republic and Slovakia has been discussed in several works (Schwarz 1949, Moucha & Chvála 1957, Moucha 1972, Králíček & Povolný 1980, Kuras & Beneš 1994). Moucha (1972) and Stephan (1923) mentioned it without giving any precise data from the north of Bohemia and Králický Sněžník Mts. ("Glatzer Lande")(probably the Polish part), respectively. The first reliable information about *C. silvicolus* in the former Czechoslovakia was published by Moucha & Chvála (1957). However, they reported only one male and did not pay much attention to their record, supposing it was an erratically immigrated specimen. Králíček & Povolný (1980) denied the possibility of the species' occurrence in the former Czechoslovakia as no other data were available to them.

The area of distribution of *Carterocephalus silvicolus* has enlarged during last 150 years and it has become a member of the Polish, German and Danish faunas (Bergman 1952; Friese 1956; Warnecke 1929, 1956). In the case of the Czech and Slovak Republics, *C. silvicolus* has been considered as an alochthone species. Kuras & Beneš (1994) reported new reliable information about the species and admitted the possibility that the previously published specimen from Karlštejn (Moucha & Chvála 1957) and also the other recorded specimens from the Czech Republic and Slovakia were not erratic vagrants.

LIST OF RECORDS

The review of the currently known records of the *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (for record No. 1 see Moucha & Chvála 1957, records Nos. 2-5 and 7-8 reviewed in Kuras & Beneš 1994) is as follows (see also Fig. 1). Grid mapping code of each locality follows Novák (1989).

Czech Republic

1. Bohemia centr.: Karlštejn (6051), 4.vii.1953, 1 ♂, M. Chvála leg. et coll. (deposited in National Museum, Praha).
2. Bohemia centr.: Gr. Wossek [= Velký Osek] (5858), 18.v. (incomplete datum), 1 ♂, 1♀, Steigerwald leg., coll. Bukuwky (dep. in Silesian Museum, Opava).
3. Moravia centr.: Grygov (6469), vi.1937 (incomplete datum), 1 ♀, A. Rudolf leg. et coll. (dep. in Silesian Museum, Opava).
4. Moravia bor.: Šumperk (6067), vi.1929 (incomplete datum), 1 ♀, Frank leg. et coll. (dep. in Silesian Museum, Opava).
5. Moravia bor.: Freudental [= Bruntál] (6070), (without datum), 1 ♂, 1 ♀, W. Spunar leg. et coll. (dep. in Silesian Museum, Opava).
6. Moravia bor.: Jindřichov nad Osoblahou [= Jindřichov] (5771), 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 28.vi.1950, coll. E. Hachler (dep. in Moravian Museum, Brno), T. Kuras & J. Beneš revid. A new record.
   The reliability of Hachler's material was discussed by Králíček & Povolný (1980). Taking into account that the specimens' label data agree well with the species' distribution, as well as with the time period (1st half of 20th century), and because of the fact that various localities have been published from adjacent Polish Silesia (Wocke 1872, Wolf 1927), we consider the record to be reliable.

Slovakia

7. Slovakia bor.: Liptovské Holé (without precise specification of the locality; the square of grid mapping is designated arbitrary - 6883), vi.1932 (incomplete datum), 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, A. Rudolf leg. et coll. (dep. in Silesian Museum, Opava).
8. Slovakia bor.: Bel. Alpen - Feiz. luka [= Belianské Tatry - Faixova lúka] (6787), vii.1931 (incomplete datum), 2 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, Höpp leg. et coll. (dep. in Regional Museum, Ostrava).

DISCUSSION

The presence of autochthone populations of *Carterocephalus silvicolus* in the Czech and Slovak Republics has not been clarified so far. There is still not enough collection material which would unequivocally prove whether the species reached the area during its spreading southward and formed breeding populations here or whether the records are based just on occasionally immigrant individuals, originating probably from Poland.

Provided that the species is alochthone in Czech and Slovak faunas, we should mention two noticeable facts which arise from the recorded data:

1. Relatively high number of the museum specimens known so far (17 from the Czech Republic and Slovakia).
2. In several cases more than one specimen was collected at the same locality at the same time or during a short period (records No. 2, 6, 7, 8) although the species forms locally restricted populations and its migration ability is not known (Forster & Wolfahrt 1955, Koch 1984).

Both facts say in our opinion that the casual occurrences in the Czech Republic and Slovakia (Schwarz 1949, Moucha & Chvála 1957, Moucha 1972, Králíček & Povolný 1980) seem to be improbable.

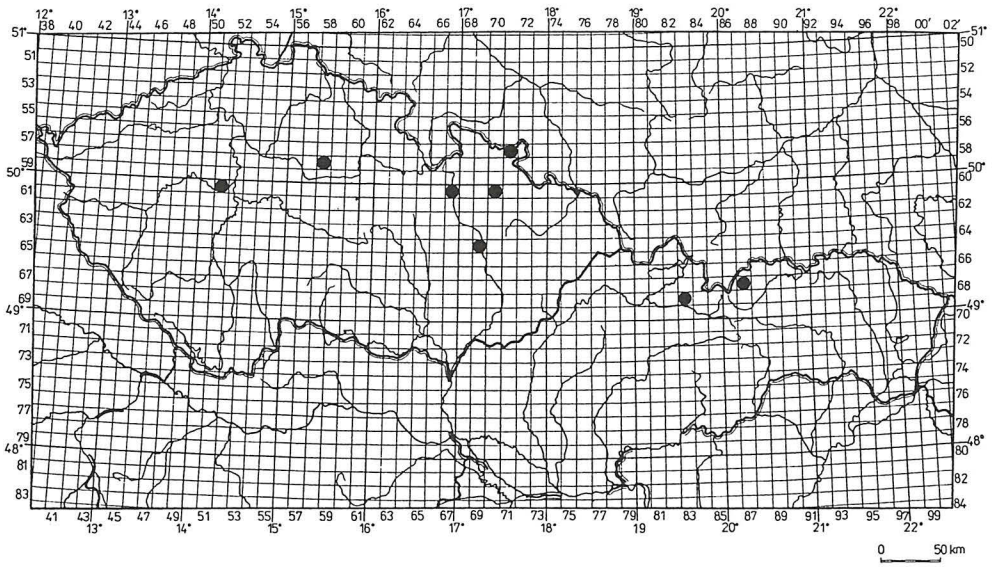


Fig. 1. Known localities of the skipper *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (Meigen) in the Czech and Slovak Republics.
Obr. 1. Známé lokality soumračníka *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (Meigen) v České a Slovenské republice.

After 1953, the species has not been recorded from the area under study. Recent localities adjacent to the Czech Republic are found in Poland (near Opole, Katowice and Swidnica towns; J. Buszko, pers. comm.). The local character of the skipper's distribution and its life history makes recent occurrence in the Czech Republic improbable. On the other hand, we cannot exclude its recent occurrence in the northern parts of the Slovak Republic, especially in the Bukovské vrchy Mts. and the High Tatra Mts., because it is known from the Polish Biesczady Mts. (Bielewicz 1973; J. Buszko, pers. comm.) and from the locality near Zakopane (Czarny Dunajec; J. Buszko, pers. comm.), respectively. In case of mentioned Slovak areas the species may be overlooked there (or confused with the congeneric species *C. palaemon* (Pallas, 1771)).

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SOUHRN

Je podán přehled všech dosud známých nálezů soumračníka *Carterocephalus silvicolus* (Meigen, 1829) z území České a Slovenské republiky. Doposud je registrováno 17 jedinců z 8 lokalit (2 v Čechách, 4 na Moravě a 2 na Slovensku). Nález z Jindřichova (severní Morava) je publikován poprvé.

Podle názoru autorů potvrzuje počet doložených exemplářů spolu s nálezy více kusů na některých lokalitách hypotézu, že tento soumračník byl (je) autochtonním druhem fauny České republiky a Slovenska. Druh zde nebyl po roce 1953 zaznamenán, a vzhledem k jeho lokálnímu rozšíření a způsobu života nejsou jeho nové nálezy v České republice pravděpodobné. Z recentního výskytu v jižním Polsku však vyplývá, že by tento druh mohl být nalezen v některých oblastech na severu Slovenska, zejména ve Vysokých Tatrách a v Bukovských vrších.