Published May 5, 2011

Klapalekiana, **47**: 101–102, 2011
ISSN 1210-6100

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Heteroptera: Miridae

Pithanus hrabei Stehlík, 1952. Moravia bor., Hrubý Jeseník Mts.: Keprník (5868), 13.vii.2010, 1 ♀ (brachypterous); Vysoká hole (5969), 15.vii.2010, 1 ♀ (brachypterous); Velká kotlina (5969), 15.vii.2010, 3 spec. observed, 1 ♀ (brachypterous) collected; all A. Lacina lgt. et det., P. Kment and P. Baňař revid. (compared with holotype) (coll. Jeseníky Protected Landscape Area, Jeseník & National Museum, Praha). All specimens were collected in subalpine grasslands above 1300 m a.s.l., especially in *Calamagrostion villosae* plant association; found together with other Miridae, especially *Notostira erratica* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Mecomma ambulans* (Fallén, 1807) and some *Stenodema* Laporte, 1833 species.

Pithanus hrabei was described based on 4 specimens collected in Hrubý Jeseník Mts. (Malý Děd – 18.vii.1947, Vozka – 19.vii.1947, Velká Kotlina – 30.vii.1948) by J. L. Stehlík (Stehlík 1952). Later the species was discovered in northern areas of Eurasia and America and it is currently known as Holarctic and circumboreal species – Norway, Sweden, Finland, North of European Russia, central Kazakhstan, Siberia (Altai, Irkutsk, Yakutia), Russian Far East (Magadan Province, northern Khabarovsk Territory), and Canada (Manitoba, Saskachewan) (Wheeler & Henry 1992, Kerzhner & Josifov 1999). *Pithanus hrabei* should be treated as glacial relict species in Central Europe with only two isolated areas there – the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. (Stehlík 1952) and Harz Mts. (Lower Saxony, Germany) (Melber 1999, Hoffmann & Melber 2003).

Little is known about biology and ecology of *Pithanus hrabei*, probably it is herbivorous like its closest relative *P. maerkelii* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1838), and it supposedly feeds on *Avenella flexuosa*, *Deschampsia cespitosa*, or *Poa* (Wheeler & Henry 1992). In the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. the species has only been found in July (Stehlík 1952, this paper); an attempt to find it at the beginning of September was unsuccessful. Only brachypterous forms were caught during the recent research, however, one macropterous individual was found in 1948 (Stehlík 1952).

Pithanus hrabei has not been found in the Czech Republic since its description, partly due to limited collecting effort. Based on the lack of recent records, Kment & Vilímová (2006) classified *P. hrabei* as a locally extinct species. Here I confirm the continued existence of the type population and recent occurrence of the species in the Czech Republic after 62 years. Nevertheless, *P. hrabei* is undoubtedly bound to alpine meadows and is endangered by expansion of allochtonous Mountain Pine (*Pinus mugo*) forest in the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. (Rybníček & Rybníčková 2004, 2005). Therefore, I prefer to retain the species in the Red List as critically endangered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I thank Petr Kment (National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic), Petr Baňař (Moravian Museum, Brno, Czech Republic) and Hannes Günther (Ingelheim, Germany) for their help with obtaining relevant literature, useful comments and help with identification.

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