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Oncopygius distans (Diptera: Dolichopodidae): first record from the Czech Republic, and first detailed records from Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

Oncopygius distans (Diptera: Dolichopodidae): první nález druhu z České rebubliky a první podrobné nálezy z Bádenska-Württemberska (Německo)

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Faunistics, first record, Moravia, Baden-Württemberg, Bílé Karpaty, Schwarzwald, Central Europe

Abstract. The paper presents the first record of *Oncopygius distans* (Loew, 1857) (Diptera: Dolichopodidae) from the Czech Republic (Bílé Karpaty Mts., Moravia) and the first detailed records of this species from Baden-Württemberg (Schwarzwald Mts., Germany), with a brief discussion of the field observations.

INTRODUCTION

Long-legged flies (Diptera: Dolichopodidae) occur in all terrestrial habitats from beaches along the sea coast to high altitude mountain sites. Most species prefer humid sites where they are sometimes the most abundant dipteran family. Species of particular genera such as *Medetera* Fisher von Waldheim, 1819, *Neurigona* Rondani, 1856 and some *Sciapus* Zeller, 1842 are often observed on vertical structures such as tree trunks and fences. Larval stages of most species occur in moist soils or in the litter layer, with only a few exceptions (see below). Both adult and larval dolichopodids are considered to be largely predaceous and feed on soft-bodied invertebrates, with the exception of the stem-mining larvae of *Thrypticus* Gerstäcker, 1864, which usually mine in water plants (e.g. *Eichhornia crassipes*). The larvae of many *Medetera* species prey on bark beetles and live in the subcortical galleries of their prey. A small number of species, such as *Systenus* species and *Australachalcus melanotrichus* (Mik, 1878), develop in rot-holes and sap runs of deciduous trees (see Pollet & Brooks 2008).

The European fauna of the Dolichopodidae currently comprises 792 species (Pollet 2009, 2011). In the Diptera checklist of the Czech Republic and Slovakia (Pollet & Suvák 2009) 324 species are recorded for the fauna of the Czech Republic and 238 for that of Slovakia. The genus *Oncopygius* Mik, 1866 is endemic to Europe (the record of *O. formosus* Parent,

1927 from China by Yang et al. (2006) is clearly incorrect). It comprises only three species, mainly recorded from montane habitats in Central and Southeastern Europe.

The present paper reports the first observation of a species of the genus *Oncopygius* from the Czech Republic and the first detailed accounts from Baden-Württemberg (Germany). Neither record was made during formal surveys for this species, but resulted from incidental collecting of Dolichopodidae in selected habitats.

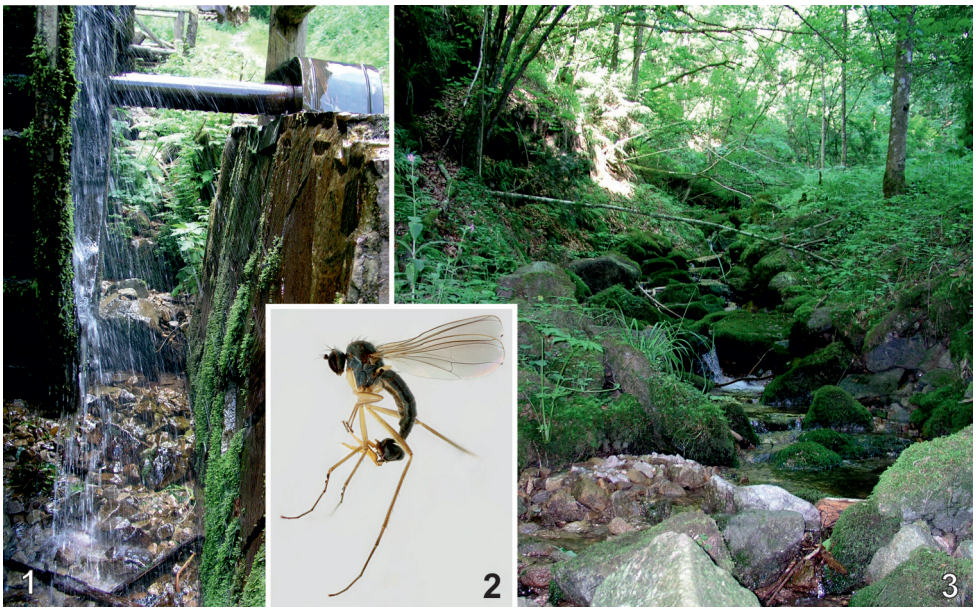
RESULTS

***Oncopygius distans* (Loew, 1857)** (Fig. 2)

Material examined. CZECH REPUBLIC: Moravia mer., Bílé Karpaty Protected Landscape Area, Štítná nad Vláří-Žírce (6973), 49°2′56.3″N, 17°59′6.2″E, 392 m a.s.l., on vegetation along small brook, sweeping, 27.v.2012, 1 ♂, M. Tkoč lgt. et det., M. Pollet rev., coll. National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic (NMPC). GERMANY: Baden-Württemberg: Schwarzwald, Münstertal, Untermünstertal, 19.vi.2006, 1 ♀, canopied bank of fast running brook, M. Pollet lgt.; Schwarzwald, Münstertal, Untermünstertal, trail to Stangenbodenhütte, 23.vi.2006, 1 ♂ 6 ♀♀, banks of forest brook with small waterfalls (Fig. 3), M. Pollet lgt.; Schwarzwald, Münstertal, Untermünstertal, Stangenbodenhütte, 47°49′7.14″N, 7°48′36.25″E, 741 m a.s.l., 4 ♂♂ 57 ♀♀, walls of watermill (Fig. 1), M. Pollet lgt.; same site, 3 ♂♂ 18 ♀♀, A. De Braekeleer lgt. All German specimens were collected with a sweep net, and all det. M. Pollet, coll. M. Pollet personal collection, Welle, Belgium (MPWB).

Distribution and conservation status. Central and Southeastern Europe: France, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary (Pollet & Suvák 2009, Pollet 2011), and Bulgaria (Beschovski 2012). In Germany, the species is known from Bavaria (Bellstedt & Wagner 2003, Gerecke et al. 2011) and Baden-Württemberg (one of the specimens was included in a molecular phylogenetic study (Germann et al. 2011), but a complete list of material is given in present paper). Bellstedt & Wagner (2003) considered *O. distans* as critically endangered (almost extinct). In Meyer & Wagner (2011), this was changed to category 2 (= endangered) due to the fact that one stable population was discovered in Germany. Its presence in other Southeastern European countries remains doubtful (especially for countries of the former Yugoslavia, and Romania), and it is apparently absent from Western European countries like Great Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium (Pollet 2011). New genus and species for the Czech Republic.

Comments. Field observations during collecting in Germany largely correspond with those of Parent (1938), who encountered the species in montane regions in France. The latter author observed that *O. distans* was active in the evening, flying slowly (resembling Culicidae) over vegetation near waterfalls, and landing on the water and rocks. In these habitats, it was found together with the dolichopodid *Hercostomus chetifer* (Walker, 1849). Dolichopodid surveys carried out in the Schwarzwald region by the second author in June 2006 and August 2008 revealed the presence of *O. distans* only in the Münstertal valley, where it was encountered at three different sites. However, the only large and thriving population was observed at the watermill near the Stangenbodenhütte (Fig. 1), where the species represented over 96% of the dolichopodid fauna (along with *Dolichopus ungulatus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Rhaphium albomaculatum* (Becker, 1891)). Surprisingly, the survey carried in August 2008 in the same Schwarzwald habitats as in June 2006 did not yield a single specimen of *O. distans*, not even



Figs 1–3. *Oncopygius distans* (Loew, 1857), habitus and collecting sites: 1 – Untermünstertal, Stangenbodenhütte, walls of watermill (Germany); 2 – habitus of *O. distans* male from Štítná nad Vláří-Žírce (Czech Republic); 3 – Untermünstertal, fast running brook (Germany).
Obr. 1–3. *Oncopygius distans* (Loew, 1857), habitus a lokality sběru: 1 – Untermünstertal, Stangenbodenhütte, zdi vodního mlýna (Německo); 2 – samčí habitus druhu *O. distans* ze Štítné nad Vláří-Žírce (Česká republika); 3 – Untermünstertal, rychle tekoucí potok (Německo).

at the Stangenbodenhütte. Instead, only *Liancalus virens* (Scopoli, 1763) (15 ♂♂ 7 ♀♀) and *Sybistroma obscurellum* (Fallén, 1823) (6 ♂♂ 10 ♀♀) were collected at this site, which suggests a restricted seasonal activity of *O. distans*, with adults present in spring.

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SOUHRN

Článek uvádí první nález druhu z čeledi lupicovití (Diptera: Dolichopodidae), *Oncopygius distans* (Loew, 1857), z České republiky a také nález tohoto druhu ze spolkové země Bádensko-Württembersko v Německu. V ČR byl nalezen jeden samec v CHKO Bílé Karpaty, zatímco v Německu byl tento druh nalezen ve větších počtech (samci i samice) na třech lokalitách v obci Münstertal v oblasti Černého lesa (Schwarzwald). Na všech lokalitách byli získáni jedinci smýkáním poblíž malých, rychle tekoucích toků. Pozorování z německých lokalit naznačují spíše pozdně-denní a podvečerní aktivitu dospělců *O. distans*, kteří se pomalým letem přesunují z vegetace na břehu na kameny uprostřed toku a zpět. Nálezy a pozorování také dokládají jarní sezónní výskyt tohoto druhu.