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First record of *Henia (Chaetechelyne) vesuviana* (Newport, 1845) (Chilopoda: Geophilida) in Poland

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Abstract

The first record of *Henia (Chaetechelyne) vesuviana* (Newport, 1845) in Poland is reported. Several specimens of the species were collected in the Botanical Garden in Wrocław.

Keywords: *Henia vesuviana*, Poland, first record

Streszczenie [Polish summary]

Po raz pierwszy w Polsce stwierdzono występowanie *Henia (Chaetechelyne) vesuviana* (Newport, 1845) (Chilopoda: Geophilida). Siedem okazów odłowiono w Ogrodzie Botanicznym we Wrocławiu – sześć osobników w czerwcu i październiku 2006 oraz jednego osobnika w maju 2007 roku. *Henia vesuviana* jest gatunkiem śródziemnomorskim. Poza zwartym zasięgiem geograficznym jest spotykany na terenach synantropijnych, ponieważ łatwo ulega introdukcji, najczęściej razem z glebą ogrodniczą. Można przypuszczać, że w Polsce, zwłaszcza zachodniej, występuje na większej liczbie stanowisk.

Zusammenfassung

Erstnachweis von *Henia (Chaetechelyne) vesuviana* (Newport, 1845) (Chilopoda: Geophilida) in Polen. Es wird der erste Nachweis von *Henia vesuviana* in Polen erbracht. Einige Exemplare dieser Art wurden im Botanischen Garten von Wrocław gefunden.

Introduction

Henia vesuviana is a Mediterranean species. LINDNER (2007) has recently given an exhaustive analysis of the occurrence of the species in Europe, based on the data in literature as well as from researches themselves. Outside Europe *H. vesuviana* is recorded from North Africa (BROLEMANN 1930). It has been introduced to North America (CRABILL 1955, KEVAN 1983).

Methods

The Botanical Garden of Wrocław (17°02' E / 51°07' N) was established in 1811. Its area amounts to 7 ha, its altitude is 120 m a. s. l. The specimens were collected by direct capture. The material is deposited in the collection of the authors.

Results

On June 20th in 2006 3 females and 2 males, on October 4th in 2006 1 male, and on May 10th in 2007 1 female of the species *H. vesuviana* were collected in the Botanical Garden. The specimens occurred in thick litter close to the brick wall and in compost. This represents the first report on *H. vesuviana* from Poland.

All 4 females have 75 leg-bearing segments, 2 males have 67 leg-bearing segments and one male has 71 leg-bearing segments. The body length ranges from 20 to 45 mm (average length: 32 mm).

Discussion

An introduction of *H. vesuviana* seems easy. Probably, most frequently it is transported by people with garden and landscaping plants and with soil used in gardening, landscaping and construction. Thus, the species is usually first reported from greenhouses (KEVAN 1983), cemeteries (CRABILL 1955) and various urban green areas (VOIGTLÄNDER 1988, FRÜND 1989, LINDNER 2007). This is also the case in Poland. Further investigations should provide information about possible spreading of *H. vesuviana* to the neighbouring habitats in Wrocław.

Many interesting data concerning the autecology of *H. vesuviana* were provided by KEAY (1984, 1986), KEAY & FORMAN (1987) and BARBER & KEAY (1988) from the United Kingdom. The species occurs only in the south of England. Most records are from the sea-shore (up to 15 km from the coast), which may confirm that *Henia vesuviana* prefers mild climate. BARBER & KEAY (1988) also found a marked preference to urban sites and a preference to arable sites in the species: 'This finding fits in with the observation that throughout its range *H. vesuviana* is known as an animal of disturbed soils'. BARBER & KEAY (1988) mention gardens, compost/refuse, hedge, embankment/cutting, woodland break, quarries/rockfaces, road/path, ditch, shore, among second order habitats of the species.

It may be supposed that *Henia vesuviana* occurs in a greater number of sites in Poland, especially in western Poland. Its expansion to our country was foreseen by A. N. KEAY (personal communication) in the 1980s.

Thus far, another species from the genus *Henia* – *Henia illyrica* – has been reported from western Poland. It was found only once in XIX century in Oława (HAASE 1881, KACZMAREK 1980) and was not found again.

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