

FIRST RECORDS OF *CONOCEPHALUS FUSCUS* AND *OMOCESTUS RUFIPES* (ORTHOPTERA: CONOCEPHALIDAE, ACRIDIDAE) IN LITHUANIA

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Introduction

The check-list of Lithuanian Orthoptera includes 43 species (Budrys & Pakalniškis, 2007; Budrys *et al.*, 2008; Ivinskis & Rimšaitė, 2008; Ūsaitis & Bumbulytė, 2011; Budrys & Budrienė, 2012) and one more species, *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826), published in the Fauna Europaea database (Heller, 2013), for which occurrence in Lithuania is not yet confirmed by verifiable data.

There are a few more orthopteran species, which general distribution range suggests presence in Lithuania. Two of these species were recorded in 2015; the data on their occurrence are presented here.

Material and Methods

The insects were observed, photo documented and identified in the field by E. Budrys (E.B.), A. Našlėnienė (A.N.) and C. Winkler (C.W.). One specimen of *Conocephalus fuscus* was collected for a study in laboratory to confirm that it is not a long-winged form of *C. dorsalis* (Latreille, 1804) (*C. d. var. burri* Ebner, 1910). The specimen is deposited in the collection of the Nature Research Centre, Vilnius.

List of localities

Aukštumala bog (1),	Šilutė distr.,	55°23'34"N, 21°21'35"E (55.39277, 21.35972);
Aukštumala bog (2),	Šilutė distr.,	55°23'22"N, 21°21'19"E (55.38945, 21.35527);
Kiemeliai,	Vilnius distr.,	54°51'05"N, 25°00'23"E (54.85142, 25.00633);
Puvočiai env.,	Varėna distr.,	54°06'46"N, 24°17'53"E (54.11278, 24.29806).

List of species

CONOCEPHALIDAE

Conocephalus fuscus (Fabricius, 1793)

Puvočiai env., dry abandoned pasture, 03 08 2015, >5♀♂ observed, 1♀ collected (E.B.); Kiemeliai, 03 08 2015, 1♀ observed (A.N.).

ACRIDIDAE

Omocestus rufipes (Zetterstedt, 1821)

Aukštumala bog (1), 04 08 2015, >3♀, >10♂; Aukštumala bog (2), 04 08 2015, 3♂, both sites in degraded raised bog with *Molinia caerulea*, *Calluna vulgaris* and spots of open soil on the edge of a sparse birch-pine forest (C.W.).



Figure 1. Male of *Omocestus rufipes* in Aukštumala peat-bog (photo C. Winkler).

Discussion

Conocephalus fuscus has more southern distribution range in Europe, in comparison to *C. dorsalis*, which is rather common in Lithuania (Budrys & Pakalniškis, 2007). *C. fuscus* is distributed in Southern and Central Europe up to northern Germany (Maas *et al.* 2002) and Poland (Bazyluk & Liana 2000), however, it has not been recorded in Scandinavia and the Eastern Baltic countries up to now. One of finding sites of *C. fuscus* is Puvočiai, a locality with high and regular insect collecting efforts due to the presence of Vilnius University field station. The lack of earlier records in this site implies a recent northward expansion of the species up to the southern and south-eastern Lithuania, presumably caused by the climate change.

Omocestus rufipes (Fig. 1) is widespread in Palaearctic and its range extends from the Western Mediterranean region over Scandinavia to Southern Siberia and Kazakhstan (Holst, 1986; Heller, 2013). This uncommon species was known from Poland (Bazyluk & Liana 2000) and Latvia (Princis, 1943) for a longer time, thus it has probably been overlooked in Lithuania in the past. *O. rufipes* was recorded in the parts of Aukštumala bog, where measures for raised bog habitat restoration are planned under a Life+ project (Jarašius *et al.* 2014). Potentially, this rare species could benefit from the planned forest clearings and creation of peat dams. We recommend monitoring of the *O. rufipes* Aukštumala population to assess the effects of the bog restoration measures on it.

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Pirmieji *Conocephalus fuscus* ir *Omocestus rufipes* (Orthoptera: Conocephalidae, Acrididae) stebėjimai Lietuvoje

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Santrauka

Pateikiami dviejų naujų Lietuvos faunai tiesiasparnių rūšių, pievinio smailialgalvio (*Conocephalus fuscus*) ir margapilvio skėriuko (*Omocestus rufipes*) stebėjimų 2015 metais duomenys. Pievinis smailialgalvis paplitęs pietinėje ir centrinėje Europoje iki Vokietijos ir Lenkijos, iki šiol nebuvo žinomas Skandinavijoje ir Baltijos šalyse. Šio žiogo aptikimas pietinėje Lietuvos dalyje galimai liudija apie klimato kaitos sąlygojamą jo plitimą į šiaurę. Margapilvis skėriukas paplitęs Vakarų Palearktikoje, Europos šiaurėje žinomas iki Suomijos bei Skandinavijos. Šios rūšies populiacija aptikta Aukštumalos aukštapelkėje, kur planuojamas buveinių atkūrimas. Autoriai rekomenduoja atlikti šios margapilvio skėriuko populiacijos stebėseną, kad įvertinti gamtotvarkos poveikį jai.

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