## FIRST RECORDS OF SCHWIEBEA CAVERNICOLA VITZTHUM, 1932 (ACARI, ACARIDIDA) IN SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO. V. M. Pešić<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of

Montenegro, 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro

Key words: Acari, Schwiebea cavernicola, Serbia, Montenegro

UDC 595.42 (497.11+497.16) 576.89 : 595.42 (497.11+497.16)

The suborder Acaridida (also Astigmata) contains a large number of mites with representatives of all ecological adaptations, from free-living to parasitic. Most species are rather small, with an idiosoma length of less than 500  $\mu$ m. Many species are of medical and economic significance, e.g., as pathogens for humans and animals, as storage pests, and as producers of important compounds in the decomposition of organic material (W u r s t, 2006).

Among the Acaridida, only a few taxa can be regarded as truly aquatic, living all the time completely submerged in water (W u r s t, 2006). Freshwater mites are found just in the families Acaridae (*Schwiebea*, *Naidacarus*) and Histiostomatidae; while



Fig. 1. Sites (black dots) of finding *Schwiebea cavernicola* Vitzthum, 1932 in Serbia and Montenegro.

*Naidacarus* and Histiostomatidae have been so far recorded only from surface water, various species of Schwiebea have in addition been found in samples of ground waters (W u r s t, 2006).

During a survey of the ground water fauna of Serbia and Montenegro (Fig. 1) some specimens of limnic Acaridida were collected. All species have been deposited in the zoological collection of Department of Biology - Podgorica (DBP). The following abbreviations are used: leg III = third leg, genu I = genu of first leg, nG = seta on the genu (only in leg III) (see: W u r s t, 2006).

## Schwiebea cavernicola Vitzthum, 1932

Material examined: SERBIA: Svrljig, Prekonoška Cave, 24.07.1994, leg. Karanović seven females; MONTENEGRO: Podgorica, river Morača, phreatic waters, 07.07.1994, leg. Karanović, one female; Rumija Mt., spring, 04.02.1997, leg. Karanović, one female; Nikšić, cave Vidrovanska Pećina, 08. 2002, leg. Pešić, one female.

Remarks: The following combination of characters is characteristic of *S. cavernicola*: two solenidions on genu I, seta nG of leg III present, and sac of receptaculum seminis wrinkled (W u r s t, 2006).

Habitat: Widespread under humid to wet bark of decaying wood and in rotting wood and tulip bulbs (W u r s t, 2006); also in aquatic habitats like fish ponds and sewage ponds (W i t z - t h u m, 1932) and ground water (F a i n, 1982).

Biology: Deutonymphs were found on *Cryptops parisii* (Chilopoda) and other Myriapoda, larvae of Cerambycidae, larvae of *Melanotus castanipes* and *Dolopius marginatus* (Coleoptera: Elateridae), and *Myrmica laevinodis* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (T ü r k and T ü r k, 1957; W u r s t, 2002).

Distribution: Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Germany (Wurst, 2006); Serbia, Montenegro.

*Acknowledgements* – The author is very grateful to Dr Tomislav Karanović (Perth, Australia) for loan of the material considered in this study. *References:* Fain, A. (1982). *Acarologia* **23** (4), 359-371. – Türk, E., and Türk, E. (1957). In: Stammer, H.J. (Ed.): Beiträge zur Systematik und Ökologie mitteleuropäischer Acarina, Vol **1** Tyroglyphidae und Tarsonemini. Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Geest and Portig, Leipzig, 1-

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