

## A pseudoscorpion species new to Finland and an updated checklist (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones)

### Новый вид ложноскорпиона для фауны Финляндии и обновлённый список видов (Arachnida: Pseudoscorpiones)

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КЛЮЧЕВЫЕ СЛОВА: ложноскорпионы, новая находка, Северная Европа.

**ABSTRACT.** *Microbisium suecicum* Lohmander, 1945 is reported from Finland for the first time. The characters that distinguish it from the closely related *M. brevifemuratum* (Ellingsen, 1903) are given. A checklist of the 17 species of Finnish pseudoscorpions is presented. A brief history of research on pseudoscorpions in Finland is also presented.

**РЕЗЮМЕ.** Впервые для фауны Финляндии отмечен ложноскорпион *Microbisium suecicum* Lohmander, 1945. Указаны его отличия от близкого *M. brevifemuratum* (Ellingsen, 1903). Приведен список ложноскорпионов зарегистрированных в Финляндии. Приведён краткий исторический обзор изучения группы в стране.

#### Introduction

There has been little research on pseudoscorpions in Finland [see Koponen, 2011]. The first list of species, with an identification key, was provided by Väänänen [1928], but only in Finnish. He reported six species. Kaisila [1949] reviewed the pseudoscorpion fauna of Eastern Fennoscandia, including 16 species from Finland. His detailed work was based on many museum samples. Lagerspetz [1953] made an ecological study on a community of *Dactylochelifer latreillei* (Leach, 1817) on seashore rocks, and Lehtinen [1964] commented on four species at their northern limits in Finland. Later, some scattered information about pseudoscorpion species has been included in ecological reports on local arthropod faunas.

Finnish pseudoscorpions have recently been studied as a part of the research programme of deficiently known and threatened forest species (PUTTE). When the three-year project “Identification guide of Finnish Opiliones and Pseudoscorpiones” started in 2012, there were 16 pseudoscorpion species reported from Finland [Kaisila, 1949; Harvey, 2013]. So far it seems that the Finnish pseudoscorpion fauna has not undergone as a

dramatic change as the opilionid fauna during the last decades. The number of opilionid species known from Finland has increased by four species [Uddström *et al.*, 2013]. Here we present one pseudoscorpion species new to Finland, along with the main characteristics for the identification of this species. We also present an updated checklist of Finnish pseudoscorpions.

#### Material and methods

The habitus photograph was taken using an Olympus Camedia E-520 camera attached to an Olympus SZX16 stereomicroscope and that of the pedipalpal chela with an Olympus Camedia C-5050 Zoom camera attached to an Olympus BH-2 microscope, both at the Zoological Museum, University of Turku. Digital images were prepared using “CombineZP” image stacking software. The single specimen of *Microbisium suecicum* studied is from the Zoological Museum, University of Helsinki, as is also the specimen of *M. brevifemuratum* (Ellingsen, 1903) (FINLAND, Pieksämäki, 25.6.1936, L. Siivonen leg., MZH No 112.284).

#### Species new to Finland

*Microbisium suecicum* Lohmander, 1945  
Figs 1, 2B.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** FINLAND, Åland Islands, Lemland, Apalholmen, forest litter, 9.05.1954, 1 specimen, leg. & det. Jouko Kaisila, MZH No 112.278.

**COMMENTS.** This specimen (Fig. 1) of *M. suecicum* was found in the collections of the Zoological Museum of the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Helsinki. The collecting locality lies on the Åland Islands, the southwesternmost corner of Finland. We have not been able to find any other specimens of this species.

*Microbisium suecicum* (Fig. 1) is a relatively small species with two pairs of eyes and a glossy cuticular



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Microbisium suecicum*, dorsal view.  
Рис. 1. Внешний вид *Microbisium suecicum*, дорсально.

surface. *M. suecicum* differs from the sibling *M. brevifemorum* by being smaller (1.4–1.8 mm, *M. brevifemorum* is 1.6–2.4 mm), the carapace as long as wide (slightly longer than wide in *M. brevifemorum*) and both relatively and absolutely shorter pedipalpal fingers. *M. suecicum* has only 26–28 teeth on the fixed finger (Fig. 2B), while *M. brevifemorum* has 40–42 teeth (Fig. 2A). In addition, *M. suecicum* has no colour contrast between the tergites and the soft intersegmental membrane [Gärdenfors & Wilander, 1992].

**BIOLOGY.** The species occurs in open forests, in forest litter and moss [Gärdenfors & Wilander, 1992], while the related species *M. brevifemorum* occurs mainly in peatlands [Kaisila, 1949; Lehtinen, 1964]. In Sweden, many of the observations of *M. suecicum* are from boulder fields [Sandström, 2007]. The only specimen known from Finland was found in forest litter at the base of a rock wall. The species also occurs in Central and Southern Europe and Morocco; for general distribution see Harvey [2013].

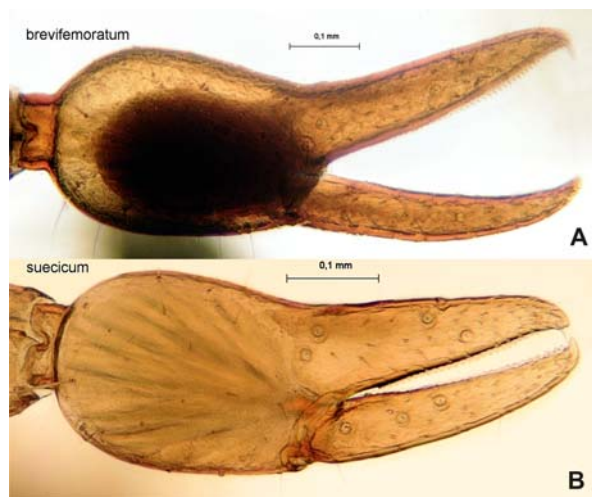


Fig. 2. Pedipalpal chela of *Microbisium brevifemorum* (A) and *M. suecicum* (B).

Note: *Microbisium suecicum* has shorter pedipalpal fingers than *M. brevifemorum*, and less than 30 teeth in the fixed finger.

Рис. 2. Клевня педипальп *Microbisium brevifemorum* (A) и *M. suecicum* (B).

Примечание: У *M. suecicum* палец педипальпы короче чем у *M. brevifemorum*, и имеет менее 30 зубчиков на неподвижном пальце.

## Checklist of Finnish pseudoscorpions

### Chthoniidae

#### Chthoniinae

*Chthonius tetrachelatus* (Preyssl, 1790)

#### Neobisiidae

##### Neobisiinae

*Microbisium brevifemorum* (Ellingsen, 1903)

*Microbisium suecicum* Lohmander, 1945

*Neobisium carcinoides* (Hermann, 1804)

#### Cheiridiidae

##### Cheiridiinae

*Apocheiridium rossicum* Redikorzev, 1935

*Cheiridium museorum* (Leach, 1817)

#### Cheliferidae

##### Cheliferinae

*Chelifer cancroides* (Linnaeus, 1758)

*Dactylochelifer latreillii* (Leach, 1817)

#### Chernetidae

##### Chernetinae

*Chernes cimicoides* (Fabricius, 1793)

*Chernes nigrimanus* Ellingsen, 1897

*Dendrochernes cyrneus* (L. Koch, 1873)

*Dinocheirus panzeri* (C.L. Koch, 1837)

##### Lamprochernetinae

*Allochernes wideri* (C.L. Koch, 1843)

*Lamprochernes chyzeri* (Tömösváry, 1882)

*Lamprochernes nodosus* (Schrank, 1803)

*Pselaphochernes dubius* (O. Pickard-Cambridge, 1892)

*Pselaphochernes scorpioides* (Hermann, 1804)

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