

## Common solifuge *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) (Solifugae, Galeodidae) in North Ossetia

## Сольпуга обыкновенная *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) (Solifugae, Galeodidae) в Северной Осетии

K.G. Mikhailov\*, M.Yu. Bakanov\*\*

К.Г. Михайлов\*, М.Ю. Баканов\*\*

\* Zoological Museum, Moscow Lomonosov State University, Bolshaya Nikitskaya Str. 2, Moscow 125009 Russia. E-mail: mikhailov2000@gmail.com.

\* Зоологический музей МГУ, ул. Большая Никитская 2, Москва 125009 Россия.

\*\* Kaluzhskie Zaseki Nature Reserve, Bolshaya Sovetskaya Str. 75, Ulyanovo, Kaluzhskaya Oblast 249750 Russia. E-mail: mybakanov@gmail.com.

\*\* Государственный природный заповедник «Калужские засеки», ул. Большая Советская 75, Ульяново, Калужская область 249750 Россия.

**Key words:** Solifuge, North Caucasus, new records, faunistics.

**Ключевые слова:** сольпуга, Северный Кавказ, новые находки, фаунистика.

**Abstract.** A review of findings of *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) (Solifugae, Galeodidae) in North Ossetia — Alania Republic, Russia, is given, together with a map of records. One additional record is provided for Ingush Republic, Russia.

**Резюме.** Дан обзор находок *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) (Solifugae, Galeodidae) в Республике Северная Осетия — Алания, приведена карта распространения этого вида в регионе. Дополнительная находка указана также из Республики Ингушетия.

*Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) is the only solifuge species known from the North Caucasus. Earlier, this species was found in Republic of North Ossetia — Alania in «Mozdok steppe» only [Birula, 1912]. Another locality, Sadon-Unal Semiarid Mountain Basin, was reported in a newspaper note [Dobronosov, Tavasiev, 2020]. This species is distributed from Ukraine, Crimea and the south of European part of Russia and southwards to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Israel and Egypt. *Galeodes caspius* Birula, 1890 known from Kazakhstan eastern of Ural River is a possible synonym of *G. araneoides* [A.V. Gromov, personal communication]. The latter species is found in steppe territories of the North Caucasus including Dagestan Republic [Birula, 1912; Byalynitsky-Birula, 1938], in Transcaucasia — in Georgia [Birula, 1912; Byalynitsky-Birula, 1938] and Azerbaijan [Birula, 1912; Harvey, 2003; Novruzov, 2020].

In this short communication we analyze material on *Galeodes araneoides* collected by S.K. Alekseev in 2015 and M.Yu. Bakanov in 2021, both kept in the

Zoological Museum of the Moscow State University, as well as the data from the records of S.K. Alekseev in 1987 (these specimens have been lost).

### *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772)

Fig. 1.

**Material.** North Ossetia — Alania: 2 juvenile, right bank of the Terek River, S of Mozdok, near Kievskaya village, N 43°42'21.31", E 44°40'21.16", h - 125–155 m a.s.l., N slope 10°, multiherbaceous *Festuca valesiana* — *Stipa* sp. steppe, 05.1987, S.K. Alekseev; 1 adult, 10 km ESE of Mozdok, near Oktyabrsky village, N 43°41'51.53", E 44°47'10.30", 140 m a.s.l., potato field, 05.1987, S.K. Alekseev; 1 adult, 3 juvenile, ibidem; 130 m a.s.l., multiherbaceous *Festuca valesiana* — *Stipa* sp. steppe, 05–07.1987, S.K. Alekseev; 2 adult, 1 juvenile, 10 km E of Mozdok, near Kamarovo village, N 43°44'10.25", E 44°47'32.95", h - 130 m a.s.l., psammophytic multiherbaceous *Festuca valesiana* — *Stipa pennata sabulosa* steppe, 05–07.1987, S.K. Alekseev; 4 adult, 15 km W of Mozdok, near Novo-Osetinovka village, N 43°45'14.38", E 44°26'03.35", h - 130–160 m a.s.l., 40-year old windbreak of *Gleditsia*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, shrubs, under rook colony, 6–8.1987, S.K. Alekseev; 2 juvenile, Kabardino-Sunzhensky Mountain Ridge, 1 km S of Zamankul village, N 43°19'35.97", E 44°24'44.79", h - 460 m a.s.l., WSW slope 0–30°, *Andropogon* — multiherbaceous steppe, erosional slope of ravine, 08–09.2015, S.K. Alekseev; 4 adult, 1 juvenile, 500 m W of Sukhotskoe village, N 43°40'54.72", E 44°25'52.36", h - 160 m a.s.l., sandy ravines under steppification in a floodplain terrace of the Terek River, 07.2021, M.Yu. Bakanov. Ingushetia: 2 juvenile, S slope of Tersky Mt. Ridge, near Voznesenskaya village, N 43°31'53.96", E 44°44'28.45", h - 470–480 m a.s.l., SE slope 10–25°, *Andropogon* steppe (overgrazing), 05.1987, S.K. Alekseev.

**Distribution** in North Ossetia — Alania (Fig. 1). The species was found in north-east region of the Republic in

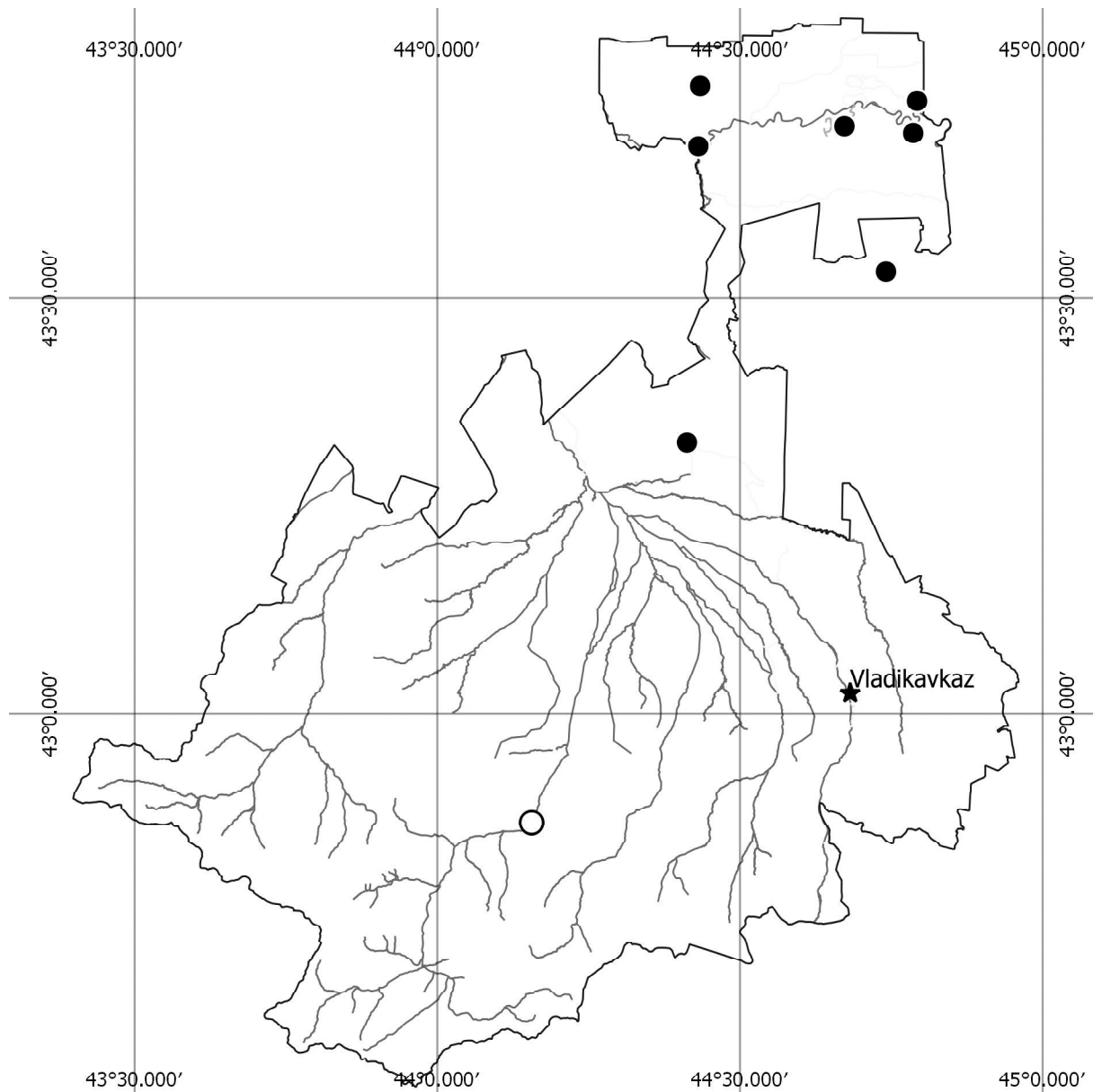


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas) in North Ossetia. Open circle indicates newspaper record.

Рис. 1. Карта распространения обыкновенной сольпуги *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas) в Северной Осетии. Газетная находка дана незаполненной окружностью.

steppe sandy ravines in floodplain terraces of the Terek River (Sukhotskoe village); single records are known from the mountain part: Sadon-Unal Semiarid Mountain Basin [Dobronosov, Tavasiev, 2020; our data]. The solifuge is also reported from the steppe biotopes of Kabardino-Sunzhensky Mt. Ridge (environs of Zamankul village, 2015, our data). Locality in Ingushetia is situated near the North Ossetia border, similar biotopes are common in both republics. This species was not found in middle and high mountain regions.

The local populations state is unknown. Only 5 specimens were caught near Sukhotskoe village in 2021; other 2–4 specimens were recorded, but not gathered. 1987 collecting near Mozdok was also not numerous, whereas this species is

known from the locality since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Common solifuge is more or less peculiar to steppe and arid communities, neighboring windbreaks and agrocoenoses. Additional data are necessary for low montane localities. Geographically, the solifuge is common to ravine system of high right bank of the Terek River.

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Dr. Sergei K. Alekseev for the data on solifuge findings in North Ossetia. The work of K.G. Mikhailov is supported by the Moscow State University Project No. 121032300105-0.

## References

- Birula A.A. 1912. [On the distribution of common solpugid (*Galeodes araneoides* [Pallas, 1772]) in southern and southeastern parts of European Russia] // Entomologicheskoe Obozrenie. Vol.12. No.2. P.296–312. [In Russian].
- Byalynitsky-Birula A.A. 1938. [Falangi (Solifuga)] // Fauna SSSR. Novaya Seriya. Vyp.17. Paukoobraznye. Vol.1. No.3. M.–L.: AN SSSR Publ. 178 p. [In Russian].
- Dobronosov V.V., Tavasiev R.A. 2020. [Dangerous «newsettlers» of Ksyurt] // Severnaya Ossetia. No.201 of 7.11.2020.
- Harvey M.S. 2003. Catalogue of the Smaller Arachnid Orders of the World: Amblypygi, Uropygi, Schizomida, Palpigradi, Ricinulei and Solifugae. Collingwood: CSIRO Publishing. xi+385 p. [In Russian].
- Novruzov N.E. 2020. [Variability of morphometric characters and sexual dimorphism of *Galeodes araneoides* (Pallas, 1772) (Arachnida, Solifugae, Galeodidae) in Eastern Transcaucasia] // Samarskiy Nauchnyi Vestnik. Vol.9. No.4. P.132–141 [In Russian, with English summary].

Поступила в редакцию 4.11.2021