

**ON SOME LEAF-LITTER AND CAVE-DWELLING SPIDERS (ARANEA: ARACHNIDA) FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.** B. P. M. Ćurčić, <sup>1</sup>C. C. Deltšev, <sup>1</sup>G. A. Blagoev, S. B. Ćurčić, S. E. Makarov, B. M. Mitić, <sup>2</sup>Emilija A. Stojkoska and <sup>2</sup>Snežana V. Stanković, *Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, Center for Biospeleology of Southeast Europe, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, <sup>1</sup>Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria, <sup>2</sup>Macedonian Museum of Natural History, 1000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia*

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Evidence on systematic zoology of spiders inhabiting the Republic of Macedonia is far from being complete and comprises only short reports by Stojićević (1929), Drensky (1936), and Tongiorgi (1966). In addition, some new data on the Macedonian araneofauna was presented in separate papers by Lugetti and Tongiorgi (1969), Wunderlich (1973, 1979, 1980, 1985), Nikolić and Polenec (1981), Deeleman-Reinhold (1985, 1993), Grimm (1985), Deeleman-Reinhold and Deeleman (1988), Deltšev *et al.* (2000), and Ćurčić *et al.* (2000).

Recently, Blagoev (2002) published a check list of Macedonian spiders, based on the synthesis of all available records until 2002; in this paper, a total of 558 spider species from 36 families were listed. Altogether, 3,712 records based on the results of 32 studies were then verified.

The present study (Table 1) treats a total of eight species belonging to eight genera and six families from 10 localities in the Republic of Macedonia (specimens were found both in leaf-litter and in caves and pits). Of these, two species: *Harpactea coccifera* Brignoli (Dysderidae) and *Silometopus reussi* (Thorell)

**Table 1.** List of established spider species in Macedonia. Abbreviations: f = female, ff = females, m = male, mm = males, juv. = juvenile(s). Species new to the fauna of Macedonia are designated by bold letters.

GENUS AND SPECIES	LOCALITY	COLLECTORS*
<b>DYSDERIDAE</b>		
<b><i>Harpactea coccifera</i> Brignoli, 1984</b>	Leaf-litter, v. Devič, Makedonski Brod, 1 m, 1 f, 17 juv., 23. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<b>NESTICIDAE</b>		
<i>Nesticus celullanus</i> (Clerck, 1757)	Devina Peštera Cave, v. Devič, Makedonski Brod, 3 ff, 23. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<b>LINYPHIIDAE</b>		
<i>Ceratinella brevis</i> (Wider, 1834)	Leaf-litter, v. Devič, Makedonski Brod, 3 ff, 23. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<b><i>Silometopus reussi</i> (Thorell, 1871)</b>	Leaf-litter, v. Devič, Makedonski Brod, 3 ff, 23. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<i>Troglohyphantes kratohvili</i> Drensky, 1935	Leaf-litter, v. Devič, Makedonski Brod, 1 f, 12 juv., 23. 06. 2002; Peštera Momiček Cave, v. Belica, Mt. Dautica, 1 f, 6 juv., 21. 06. 2002; Špela Bozguni Cave, v. Patiška Reka, Mt. Karadžica, 8 ff, 12 juv., 20. 06. 2002; Manastirska Propast Pit, v. Zrze, Mt. Dautica, 22. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<b>ARANEIDAE</b>		
<i>Araniella opistographa</i> (Kulczyński, 1905)	In front of Manastirska Propast Pit, v. Zrze, Mt. Dautica, 1 f, 22. 06. 2002.	SBC
<b>AGELENIDAE</b>		
<i>Histopona</i> sp.	Golema Slatinska Peštera Cave, v. Slatina, Makedonski Brod, 3 juv., 23. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN
<b>GNAPHOSIDAE</b>		
<i>Drassyllus villicus</i> (Thorell, 1875)	Špela Bozguni Cave, v. Patiška Reka, Mt. Karadžica, 1 f, 20. 06. 2002.	SBC, BMM, SEM, EST, SST, NAN

Collectors: SBC = Srećko B. Ćurčić, BMM = Bojan M. Mitić, EST = Emilija A. Stojkoska, SEM = Slobodan E. Makarov, SST = Snežana V. Stanković, NAN = Nikola Angelov.

(Linyphiidae) (*i. e.*, 0.36 % of the total number of spider species in Macedonia or 20.00 % of the total number of species analyzed herein) and the single genus *Silometopus* Simon are new to the spider fauna of the Republic of Macedonia.

In conclusion, the Republic of Macedonia is inhabited by a great number of widely-distributed spiders, but also by many endemic and relict taxa; these pertain to the Paleo-Mediterranean, Laurasian, Paleo-Aegean and South- or North-Aegean (or Proto-Balkan) phyletic series.

Studies on cave inhabitants of the Macedonian karst have offered further proof of their great age and different origin. These species and genera represent the last vestiges of an old fauna, which found shelter in the underground domain (soil, caves) of Macedonia and the adjacent regions.

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