



***Brachyiulus jawlowskii* Lohmander, 1928, a millipede species new to the fauna of Poland (Myriapoda: Diplopoda)**

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Abstract: The widespread East European millipede *Brachyiulus jawlowskii* is being reported from Poland for the first time, currently representing the northwesternmost record.

Key words: Myriapoda, millipede, *Brachyiulus jawlowskii*, new record, Poland

INTRODUCTION

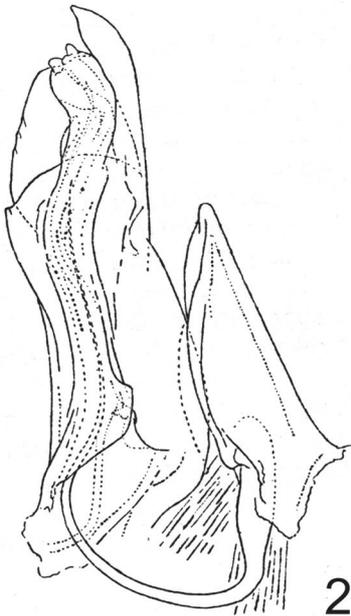
The basically Euro-Mediterranean genus *Brachyiulus* Berlese, 1884 is known to encompass eight valid species (Enghoff & Kime 2004). A few of them are quite local in distribution, being confined to several rather small areas in the Apennines or Balkans, but the others are more widespread. Thus, *B. bagnalli* (Brolemann, 1924) is common in Central and southern Europe while *B. pusillus* (Leach, 1814) occurs nearly throughout Western Europe and Scandinavia, having also been introduced to many places across the world (Blower 1985). These two congeners have been the only *Brachyiulus* species hitherto known from Poland (Stojalowska & Staręga 1974). One more, *B. lusitanus* Verhoeff, 1898, is pan-Mediterranean, reaching the Near East, the Caucasus and even Central Asia in the east (Golovatch 1979a, 1979b).

B. jawlowskii is widely distributed across Eastern Europe, having been reported from Romania, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia (Lokšina 1969, Chorny & Golovatch 1993, Prisnyi 2002, Enghoff & Kime 2004). Golovatch (1984) and Chorny & Golovatch (1993) consider *B. jawlowskii* as one of the diplopods subendemic to the forested steppe belt of the Eastern European, or Russian, Plain, but actually ranging from the taiga (= boreal coniferous forest) zone in the north to the semi-desert belt in the south. Based on abundance data from large-scale quadrat sampling across the Plain, the ecological optimum for *B. jawlowskii* seems to lie within the steppe belt east of the Dnepr, in the lower Don Basin (Wytwer et al. 2009). This species mostly lives in litter in various habitats, yet never being numerous there.

B. jawlowskii has been found in the valley of Bug River (the Landscape Park “Podlaski Przelom Bugu”) near the villages of Mogielnica and Mierzvice. The study areas are situated on river mud sediments overgrown by inundated fresh meadows (*Poa pratensis*-*Festuca rubra*) mowed twice during the vegetation season. Only 3 males and 2 females of *B. jawlowskii* have been collected there.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

The Landscape Park “Podlaski Przelom Bugu”: Mierzvice (N 52° 19' E 23° 0'): 1 male, inundated fresh meadow, 31 March 2008, leg. I. Hajdamowicz; Mogielnica (N 52° 24' E 22° 34'): 1 male, 2 females, inundated fresh meadow, 14 April 2008, leg. I. Hajdamowicz; Mogielnica (N 52° 24', E 22° 34'): 1 male, inundated fresh meadow, 14 May 2008, leg. I. Hajdamowicz.



Figs 1–3. Male of *Brachyiulus jawlowskii* Lohmander, 1928: 1 – Anterior body part, lateral view; 2 – Sketch of the right gonopod (mesial view) by Lohmander (1928); 3 – Photo of the right gonopod of a male from Mierzwice, leg. P. Jastrzębski

COMMENTS

A brief description of a male is given below to document the discovery. The present record not only adds *B. jawlowskii* to the Polish list, but also provides the northwesternmost range limit of the species

Measurements: body length (specimen broken) 12.08 mm, width 0.78 mm. Head and trunk shining, brownish. Collum a little lighter than trunk (Fig. 1). Two longitudinal, dorsal, paramedian, narrow, light stripes separated by a narrow, dark, axial line. Metazonital striation quite clear, rather sparse. Epiproct short, only slightly projecting behind pale yellow paraprocts, the latter bearing a few setae. Legs light brown. First pair of legs in male modified into small hooks. Gonopods as in Figs 2 & 3.

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STRESZCZENIE

[*Brachyiulus jawlowskii* Lohmander, 1928, nowy dla fauny Polski gatunek krocionoga (Myriapoda: Diplopoda)]

Brachyiulus jawlowskii (3 samce i 2 samice) został po raz pierwszy stwierdzony w Polsce w dolinie rzeki Bug w Parku Krajobrazowym „Podlaski Przełom Bugu” w pobliżu miejscowości Mogielnica i Mierzvice. Odkryte stanowisko jest najdalej wysuniętym na północny zachód w obszarze zasięgu gatunku, związanego głównie z pasem stepów. Powierzchnie badawcze usytuowane były na łące zalewowej (*Poa pratensis-Festuca rubra*) tarasu zalewowego wyższego.

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