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**Scientific note**

# First record of the Pygmy Toothed Grasshopper, *Stenobothrus crassipes* (Charpentier, 1825) in Montenegro

**(Orthoptera, Acrididae)**

**Slobodan Ivković, Ivan Tot, Mihailo Vujić & Milan Đurić**

*Stenobothrus crassipes* (Charpentier, 1825) is a small grasshopper widespread in Central and Eastern Europe: Czechia, Slovakia, Southwestern Ukraine, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Romania and Bulgaria (Chobanov et al. 2016). In contrast to this, this species has been documented in Western Europe in isolated populations only, e. g., the W-Kyffhäuser Mountains in Germany (Köhler 2009) and the Pannonian part of Austria (Zuna-Kratky et al. 2017).

On July 31st, 2019 the authors visited the special nature reserve "Pešter plateau" and surrounding area in order to investigate its flora (mainly orchids) and invertebrate fauna. During that survey, on the Montenegrin side of Piskova poljana between Šuplji Kamen hill and Bijela Voda spring (N 42°58.796', E 20°5.909', 1525 m a.s.l.) (Fig. 1A), we succeeded to count 30 *Stenobothrus crassipes* specimens in a 10-minute search (Fig. 1B). Specimens occurred together with various other grasshopper species including *Poecilimon thoracicus* (Fieber, 1853), *Polysarcus denticauda* (Charpentier, 1825), *Modestana ebneri* (Ramme, 1926), *Metrioptera brachyptera* (Linnaeus, 1761), *Pholidoptera frivaldszkyi* (Herman, 1871), *Pholidoptera fallax* (Fischer, 1853), *Psorodonotus macedonicus* Ramme, 1931, *Ephippiger ephippiger* (Fiebig, 1784), *Odontopodisma albanica* Ramme, 1951, *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826), *Omocestus haemorrhoidalis* (Charpentier, 1825), *Stenobothrus stigmaticus faberi* Harz, 1975, and *Pseudochorthippus parallelus* (Zetterstedt, 1821).

The species is reported to inhabit semi-dry and dry grasslands, steppe associations, subalpine dry grasslands from the lowlands of central Europe up to 2100 m in Stara Planina Mountains and forest clearings (Chobanov et al. 2016). However, the new documented population was found on subalpine dwarf shrub heath with *Juniperus* sp. and *Vaccinium myrtillus*, surrounded by karst. Several high altitude populations in Serbia (above 1200 m a.s.l.) were observed on Veliki Čemernik and Tara Mt., where habitats were grasslands with *Vaccinium myrtillus* and *Cytisus* sp., thus further research on species distribution should be focused on similar habitats on Dinaric Mountains in Albania, Montenegro and Croatia. Additional research should also focus on the ecology of this species, especially of the populations that occur on higher elevations, their development and ability to withstand low temperatures.

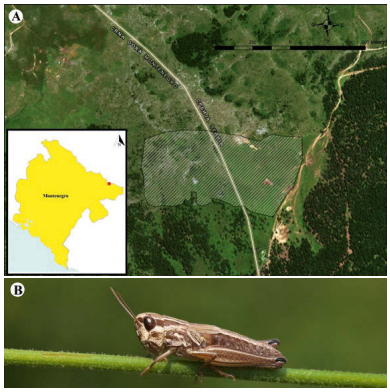

**Fig. 1. A.** Map of the locality where *Stenobothrus crassipes* (Charpentier, 1825) was observed (●) with Google Earth map of the explored area; **B.** Freshly moulted *S. crassipes* (Charpentier, 1825) female, found in Montenegro.

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Slobodan Ivković, IUCN/SSC Grasshopper Specialist Group, Department of Biogeography, Trier University, Universitätsring 15, 54286 Trier, Germany; e-mail: s6slivko@uni-trier.de
Ivan Tot, HabiProt, Cankareva 9/13, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia; e-mail: ivan@habiprot.org.rs
Mihailo Vujić, HabiProt, Cankareva 9/13, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia; e-mail: mihailovujic01@gmail.com
Milan Đurić, HabiProt, Cankareva 9/13, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia; e-mail: milandju8@gmail.com