



A review of harvestmen (Arachnida: Opiliones) in Slovenia*

TONE NOVAK¹, SAŠA LIPOVŠEK DELAKORDA¹ & LJUBA SLANA NOVAK²

¹University of Maribor, Department of Biology, Koroška 160, SI-2000 Maribor, Slovenia.

²Ozare 31, SI-2380 Slovenj Gradec

*Dedicated to Prof. Jochen Martens for his contribution in revising opilionid species in Slovenia

Abstract

The authors present a short historical faunistic, zoogeographical and ecological review of research on harvestmen (Opiliones) of the territory of presentday Slovenia, and discuss some actual ecological and nature conservational questions. Till recent, 64 species plus two subspecies of Opiliones inhabiting Slovenia are recorded, most of these are Alpine, European, Central- and Western European elements. Taxonomically, there are some open questions, especially in the genus *Trogulus*. A small number of further species can be expected in Slovenia, raising the potential final number to 69-71. Some harvestmen are locally and regionally endangered, especially by anthropogenous habitat and ecosystem changes.

Keywords: Arachnids, harvestmen, nature conservation, zoogeography

Introduction

In his famous work "Entomologia carniolica", Johannes Antonius Scopoli (1763) published the first evidence on Opiliones species within the territory of today's Slovenia. He cited *Phalangium opilio* and described a new species, *Trogulus nepaeformis* (sub *Acarus nepeformis*). In 1851, Ferdinand Schmidt described *Phalangium cancroides*, which was later renamed *Ischyropsalis hadzii* by Roewer (1950), because of its preoccupied name. Gustav Joseph's (1868) *Cyphophthalmus duricorius* was the next species described within the territory. In the 1920s, Jovan Hadži started with almost 50 years of research on Opiliones. He published several new Opiliones taxa (e.g. Hadži 1926/27, 1928, 1931, 1973a), solved a lot of taxonomical problems, especially in Ischyropsalididae (Hadži 1942, 1954), and prepared the first review of harvestmen species of the former Yugoslavia. In his catalogue, he cited (Hadži 1973b) 71 species and 8 subspecies for Slovenia. Later on, it was found that 36 of these species are valid, while 35 species and 8 subspecies have been found to be synonyms, or they do not occur in