



A new species of *Strouhaloniscellus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Crustacea: Isopoda: Oniscidea) from a cave in Mt Biokovo, Croatia

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Abstract

A new species of *Strouhaloniscellus* (*S. biokovoensis*) (Trichoniscidae, Haplophthalminae) is described and illustrated from specimens collected at the bottom of a vertical cave in Mt Biokovo, Croatia. The new species is characterised by its small size (2.8 mm long), unpigmented body, absence of eyes, cephalon with three rows of tubercles, pereion with an oblique ridge on the epimera and 2+2 large tubercles on pereionites 1–6 and 1+1 on pereionite 7, pleon narrow with no dorsal ornamentation, male pereopod 7 with a stout apically rounded seta on carpus, and male pleopod 1 exopod with a quadrangular distal part bent outwards and a rounded lobe on medial margin. *Strouhaloniscellus biokovoensis* n. sp. represents the second known species of the genus *Strouhaloniscellus*. The differences with *S. anophthalmus* (Strouhal) are discussed and an emended diagnosis of the genus *Strouhaloniscellus* is given.

Key words: Isopoda, Oniscidea, Trichoniscidae, Haplophthalminae, new species, cave-dwelling, Croatia

Introduction

Biokovo is the second highest mountain range in Croatia, located along the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic Sea, between the Cetina and Neretva rivers. It is mostly composed of limestone and represents an important karstic area. Sustained biospeleological research on Mt Biokovo began in 2002 with the five-year long project "Inventory and Mapping of Subterranean and Spring Fauna" undertaken by the Croatian Biospeleological Society, the Croatian Natural History Museum and Biokovo Nature Park. During that project, 107 different speleological sites (a lot of them several times) were investigated and a rich subterranean fauna was collected. In one of this localities, Jama iznad Saranača (Pit above Saranač), Gornje Igrane, Podgora, a new species of *Strouhaloniscellus* Tabacaru, 1993 (Isopoda, Oniscidea, Trichoniscidae, Haplophthalminae) was found. The genus was previously known only for the type-species, *Strouhaloniscellus anophthalmus* (Strouhal, 1939) from a cave in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Abbreviations:

CNHM Croatian Natural History Museum, Zagreb (Croatian Biospeleological Society Collection)

MZUF Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Firenze, Sezione di Zoologia La Specola, Florence