

A record of *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Orthoptera: Acrididae) from Brno (Czech Republic)

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FISCHER O. A. 2018: A record of *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Orthoptera: Acrididae) from Brno (Czech Republic). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* **103(2)**: 123–126. – Repeated findings of the slender green-winged grasshopper *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius) in a ruderal area of the Brno-Královo Pole suburb in July–September 2018 are presented.

Keywords. Orthoptera, Acrididae, faunistics, Moravia, Czech Republic

The slender green-winged grasshopper *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781) is a widely-distributed species in the Palearctic, Afrotropical, Indomalayan, and Notogea Regions. It has been recorded for Spain (ALCÓN & LLUCIA-POMARES 2011), France (BONNET & PETIT 1994), Italy (FONTANA *et al.* 2002), Croatia (ŠERIĆ-JELASKA & SKEJO 2014, SZÖVÉNYI & PUSKÁS 2012), Germany (SEEHAUSEN 2016), Austria (LANDMANN 2017), Poland (LIANA 1994; MELCZAREK & GROBELNY 2018), Slovakia (KRIŠTÍN 2004), Hungary (KENYERES *et al.* 2017; SZÖVÉNYI 2018), Ukraine (PUSHKAR & STOROZHENKO 2013), and Romania (PUSKÁS 2015). It is a rare, critically endangered species in the Czech Republic, where findings from only southern Moravia (CHLÁDEK 1995, HOLUŠA 1996, HOLUŠA 2003) and the Moravian part of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands (Žďárské vrchy Protected Landscape Area, MÜCKSTEIN & VLK 2015) have been recorded. Surprisingly, this grasshopper, usually a rare species inhabiting the salt marshes, such as “Slanisko u Nesytu” National Natural Reserve (KOČÁREK *et al.* 2013), has recently been found on the northern margin of the industrial city of Brno.

Study area

The junction of Kolejní Street and the road to the sports ground (49°13'45.7"N, 16°34'21.7"E) on the campus of the Brno University of Technology in Brno-Královo Pole (6765). Artificial slope (10°) with brown soil (altitude 285 m), sparsely covered in grasses, and ruderal plants (*Achillea millefolium*, *Arctium minus*, *Artemisia vulgaris*, *Carduus acanthoides*, *Carlina acaulis*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Leonurus cardiaca*, *Linaria vulgaris*, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Melilotus albus*, *M. officinalis*, *Plantago major*). (See Fig. 1.)



Fig. 1: Locality under study.



Fig. 2: Adult female of *Aiolopus thalassinus*, 6 September 2018. Photo: O. A. Fischer.

Material

Moravia mer.: *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781), 3 ♀♀, 2.vii. 2018, observ. O. A. Fischer; 1 ♀, 20. viii. 2018, lgt. det. et coll. O.A. Fischer; 6.ix. 2018, 5 ♀♀ observ., 1 ♂ lgt. det. et coll. O. A. Fischer. Finding of the female on 6 September was documented by a colour photo (Fig. 2).

Accompanying species of the family Acrididae: *Oedipoda caerulescens* (Linnaeus, 1758), 6.ix.2018, 1 ♂ observ. O. A. Fischer; *Calliptamus italicus* (Linnaeus, 1758), 6.ix.2018, 1 ♀ observ. O. A. Fischer.

Discussion

Although *Aiolopus thalassinus* is considered to be a thermophilous species of the lowlands, it was recorded by MÜCKSTEIN & VLK (2015) from the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, where the climate is colder, at an altitude of 824 m. The species is capable of long-distance flight, enabling it to settle new areas. Findings of this species in south-eastern and eastern Poland (LIANA 1994, MELCZAREK & GROBELNY 2018) and Ukraine (PUSHKAR & STOROZHENKO 2013) confirm that the northern range of distribution of *A. thalassinus* in Europe may be changing (KRIŠTÍN *et al.* 2007). There are neither salt marshes nor drying fish cultivation ponds in the vicinity of Brno-Královo Pole. Repeated findings of *A. thalassinus* in the locality under study (in total 10 individuals) in July-September 2018 provides evidence of the high potential for this species to expand its range..

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