

COLLEMBOLA (HEXAPODA) FROM THE RIPARIAN HABITATS OF THE DNIESTER RIVER

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Abstract. The paper includes 138 Collembolan species from diverse habitats situated along the banks of the Dniester River. The majority of species has a large zoogeographical distribution: European (36 species), cosmopolitan (33), Palaearctic (28), Holarctic (25) and Mediterranean (5). Eleven species have restricted area of distribution; some of them are known also from Romania and Ukraine, the others are endemic. Identified Collembola species are highly diversified ecologically and in many cases habitat-restricted that indicate the importance and conservation value of the Dniester River ecosystems.

Keywords: Collembola, Dniester River, ecology, species diversity.

Abstract. Collembola (Hexapoda) din ecosistemele riverane ale fluviului Nistru. Lucrarea include 138 specii de colembole identificate în diverse biotopuri amplasate de-a lungul malurilor fluviului Nistru, cu predominarea speciilor cu areal larg de distribuție: Europene (36 specii), cosmopolite (33), Palaearctice (28), Holarctice (25) și Mediteraneene (5). Unsprezece specii au areal îngust de răspândire, fiind cunoscute în România și Ucraina sau sunt endemice. Speciile de colembole identificate au preferințe ecologice diverse și sunt adesea depistate în microhabitate unice, ceea ce indică importanța și necesitatea păstrării și conservării ecosistemelor riverane ale Nistrului.

Cuvinte cheie: Collembola, fluviul Nistru, ecologie, diversitate specifică.

INTRODUCTION

Collembola are the most diverse, abundant and widely distributed groups of invertebrate animals and constitute the vast majority of fauna living in the soil and litter. These invertebrates have some very important attributes: taxonomic and ecological diversification; fidelity to narrow niches and microhabitats; high endemism; easy sampling; sensitivity to perturbation; important contribution to ecosystem function, so Collembola, among other invertebrate groups, were the most useful indicators for locating biodiversity hotspots and for measuring change.

The faunistic and ecological researches of the river banks and floodplains using this small group of invertebrates present special interest (KHANISLAMOVA, 1988; BULIMAR, 1992; ČARNOGURSKÝ, 1998; STERZYNSKA & EHRNSBERGER, 1999; STERZYNSKA & PILIPIUK, 1999; RUSSELL et al., 2004; TRONSTAD et al., 2005). The bank of rivers and floodplains are in a permanent transformation. The spring river floods or abundant rains increase greatly the water level and transcend the usual bank limit, bringing to the banks biogenic elements such as fine particle of organic matter.

The Dniester River is unique because of its geographical and transboundary position and the broad spectrum of habitats including petrophyte and Mediterranean types of forests, *Populus alba*, *Pinus nigra* and *Robinia pseudoacacia* plantations, the rocky slope of calcareous canyons, small lakes, meadows, large flooded areas and agricultural fields (POSTOLACHE, 1995).

The first result of the study of Collembola along the banks of the Dniester River was published in 2004. Since then several papers including the biotopic, faunistic and ecological analysis have been done (BUȘMACHIU, 2004, 2006, BUȘMACHIU & ZUBCOV, 2007). The aim of this paper is to unify all data concerning collembolan species richness and diversity along the banks of the Dniester River, their distribution, ecology and preferences. The study was supported by the projects No. 08.820.08.02 BF and 10.820.08.07 BF.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Characteristics of the studied habitats. The samples of the faunistic material were collected from the soil, litter, wood decompose, moss, tree trunks, herbs and aquatic plants near 29 localities situated along the Dniester River. The banks of river changed gradually from calcareous to sand and silt with different texture along the riverbeds, forming a large spectrum of habitats. The Carpathian part of the river is covered by petrophyte forests and low shrubs; the poplar, willow and acacia plantations are in the Middle part; the flooded forests and meadows are in the Lower Dniester. The Mediterranean types of the forest and spot of steppe are situated on the bank with high altitude of the Lower Dniester.

The list of habitats, localities and its abbreviation:

1. The petrophyte community on the rocky slope of calcareous canyons near the localities Butuceni (B.), Camenca (C.), Orheiul Vechi (OV), Mărcăuți (M.), Lalova (L.), Rașcova (Rc.), Saharna (S.), Sărăteni (St.), Tătărauca Nouă (TN), Țipova (Ț.), Unguri (U.) and Vișcăuți (V.).

2. The banks of the river covered with herbaceous plants and trees plantations near the towns Soroca (Sr.) and Rezina (R.), villages Cocieri (Co.), Goieni (G.), Gura Bîcului (GB), Holercani (H.), Otaci (O.), Malovata (ML.) and Naslavcea (N.).

3. Flooded areas expanded through dozens of kilometres along numerous meanders with paludous vegetation, natural forest on the base of oak, as well as meadows on alluvial soil near the villages Copanca (Cp.), Crocmaz (Cr.), Iagorlic (I.), Leuntea (Le.), Olanești (Ol.) and Talmază (T.).

4. Spot of natural steppe - xerophilous ecosystem occurs near the village Răscăieți (Rs.).

5. Natural forest with elements of Mediterranean flora adapted to xerothermic conditions near the village Grădinița (Gr.).

Sampling and extraction. Collembola were collected during 2001-2010 years; extraction was made using flotation method and then fixed in 70-80 % ethyl alcohol. The species of Collembola in the open habitats, meadows and from aquatic plants were also collected by exhaustor and fixed immediately in alcohol. Collembolan specimens were mounted on permanent slides and identified according to the basic keys and some modern systematic works.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As a result of investigation, 138 species of Collembola belonging to 66 genera and 17 families have been found in different habitats situated along the banks of the Dniester River. That is more than half of the species of this group cited from the Republic of Moldova (BUȘMACHIU, 2010). The highest number of registered collembolan species were from the families Entomobryidae (33 species), Neanuridae (19), Isotomidae (18), Hypogastruridae (15), Onychiuridae (13) and Tullbergidae (11). Two families, Sminthuridae and Katiannidae, were represented by 5 species, when the families Tomoceridae, Odontellidae and Dicyrtomidae only with 3 species each. The other collembolan families such as Brachystomellidae, Cyphoderidae, Sminthurididae and Neelidae have only two found species, while Poduridae and Arrhopalitidae only one species each.

The list of collembolan species with the localities, distributions, life forms and some ecological data (CHERNOBAI et al., 2003; FJELLBERG, 1998; KRAWCZYNSKI, 2006) are included in Table 1. The abbreviation of the localities is included in the material and methods.

In the petrophyte forests, there were found such species as: *Ceratopysella engadinensis*, *Schoettella ununguiculata*, *Morulina verrucosa*, *Pseudachorutella assigilata*, *Superodontella* sp., *Tetrodontophora bielanensis*, *Pseudosinella imparipunctata*, *Orchesella orientalis*, *O. multifasciata*, *Sphaeridia pumilis* and *Ptenothrix leucostrigata*.

From the moist soil along the bank and aquatic herbs, we sampled the following hygrophilous species – *Friesea afurcata*, *Anurida ellipsoides*, *Stenaphorura denisi*, *Ballistura schoetti*, *Isotomurus palustris*, and epineustic species *Podura aquatica*, *Sminthurides aquaticus*.

The typical species for calcareous soil and moss on calcareous soil are: *Kalaphorura paradoxa*, *Thalassaphorura tovtrensis*, *Protaphorura pannonica*, *Jevania weineriae*, *Orchesella maculosa*, *Xenylla uniseta*, *Folsomides angularis* and *F. marchicus*. Some species, such as *Stachia populosa*, *Isotomodes productus*, *Folsomides parvulus*, have been found only in open xerothermophilous steppe habitats.

In the litter of natural forests, trees plantation and under low shrubs the following 15 species were found: *Ceratopysella succinea*, *Pseudachorutes subcrassus*, *Deutonura albella*, *Neanura moldavica*, *Pogonognathellus flavescens*, *Tomocerus minor*, *Orchesella albofasciata*, *Entomobrya atrocincta*, *Entomobrya multifasciata*, *E. quinquelineata*, *Pseudosinella octopunctata*, *Pseudosinella horaki*, *Heteromurus major*, *Folsomia quadrioculata* and *Orchesella pseudobifasciata*.

Among the studied species, it is interesting to emphasize some of them: *Orchesella orientalis* and *O. maculosa* were cited earlier in Romania (IONESCO, 1915) and Ukraine (CHERNOBAI et al., 2003), two species *Dimorphaphorura irinae* and *Endomura gracilirostris* have been recently described in Ukraine and then found in the soil of calcareous canyon of the Dniester River. Two species *Morulina verrucosa* and *Tetrodontophora bielanensis* are the Carpathian elements in the fauna of the Republic of Moldova, while such species as *Willemia intermedia*, *Hymenaphorura polonica*, *Jevania weineriae* and *Neanura minuta* are very rare, with few individuals and found only in one microhabitat of the studied localities. It is important to reveal the zoogeographical analysis of the studied species (Fig. 1).

Most of them have a large area of distribution: European 36 species (26.1%), cosmopolitan 33 (23.9%), Palearctic 28 (20.3%), Holarctic 25 (18.1%) and Mediterranean 5 (3.6%). However, among the studied species, 11 (8%) have a restricted area of distribution being also present in the adjacent countries Romania and Ukraine or are endemic, such as *Lathriopyga nistru* (BUȘMACHIU, DEHARVENG & WEINER, 2010), *Neanura moldavica* (BUȘMACHIU & DEHARVENG, 2008), *Xenylla andrzejii* (BUȘMACHIU & WEINER, 2008), *Pseudosinella gruiiae* (DA GAMA & BUȘMACHIU, 2002), *Protaphorura* sp., *Arrhopalites* sp. and *Superodontella* sp.

Collembola are highly diversified ecologically and also habitat-restricted taxa, so the presence of rare and unique collembolan species as well as newly described species, indicate the importance and conservation value of the Dniester River ecosystems.

CONCLUSIONS

The investigation carried out in different habitats situated along the banks of the Dniester River allows us to reveal 138 species of Collembola belonging to 66 genera and 17 families. Among the studied species 127 have a large area of distribution: European 36 species (26.1%), cosmopolitan 33 (23.9%), Palearctic 28 (20.3%), Holarctic 25

(18.1%) and Mediterranean 5 (3.6%). Eleven species have a restricted area of distribution; some of them are also known from Romania and Ukraine; the others are endemic.

The identified Collembola species are highly diversified ecologically and in many cases habitat-restricted. The presence of the rare and unique collembolan species as well as newly described species, indicate the importance and conservation value of the Dniester River ecosystems.

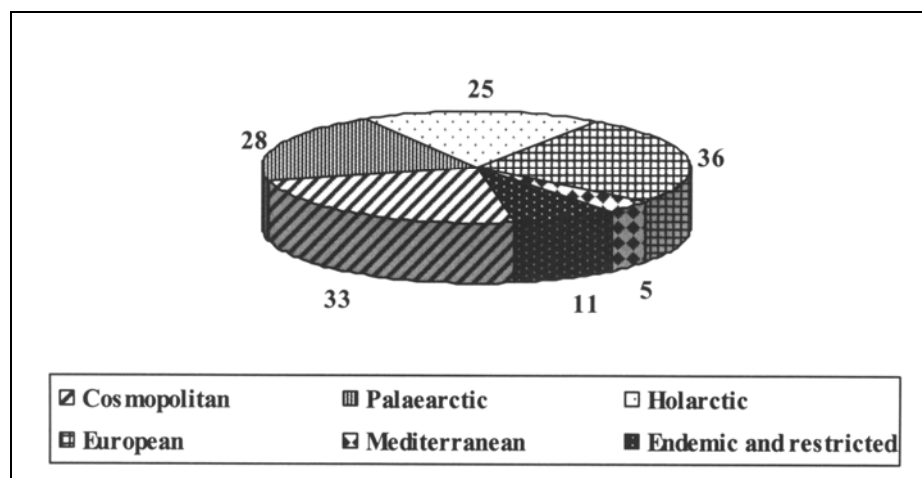


Figure 1. Distribution of collembolan species identified in the riparian habitats of the Dniester River.
Figura 1. Distribuția zoogeografică a speciilor de colebole identificate în habitatele riverane ale fluviului Nistru.

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Table 1. The list of Collembola species from the riverine ecosystems with distribution and some ecology.
Table 1. Lista speciilor de colembole, distribuția și ecologia lor în ecosistemele riverane.

No.	Taxa	Localities	Distribution, life forms and ecological data
	Family Hypogastruridae		
1	<i>Hypogastrura manubrialis</i> (TULLBERG, 1869)	V.	Cosmopolitan, compost and fungivorous species
2	<i>Hypogastrura vernalis</i> (CARL, 1901)	GB, Le.	Cosmopolitan, hygrophilous, riverine and meadow species
3	<i>Ceratophysella denticulata</i> (BAGNALL, 1941)	Cp., Ol.	Cosmopolitan, hemiedaphic, mesophilous species
4	<i>Ceratophysella engadinensis</i> (GISIN, 1949)	L., Le., S., T.	Cosmopolitan species of dry open habitats
5	<i>Ceratophysella succinea</i> GISIN, 1949	B., GB.	Cosmopolitan, mesophilous and compost species
6	<i>Schoetella ununguiculata</i> (TULLBERG, 1869)	Gr., GB, L., H., OV.	Holarctic, thermophilous and xerophilous, epiedaphic species
7	<i>Choretinula inermis</i> (TULLBERG, 1871)	O.	Palaeartic, forest species
8	<i>Xenylla andrzeji</i> BUȘMACHIU, WEINER, 2008	B.	R. Moldova, forest species
9	<i>Xenylla boernerii</i> (AXELSON, 1905)	B.	Palaeartic, bryophilous and silvicolous species
10	<i>Xenylla brevicanada</i> TULLBERG, 1869	B., Gr., H.	Palaeartic, epiedaphic, forest species, prefers dry habitats
11	<i>Xenylla brevisimilis brevisimilis</i> STACH, 1949	GB, OV, Le., Rs., T.	European, thermophilous, silvicolous species
12	<i>Xenylla maritima</i> TULLBERG, 1869	OV, T., T.	Cosmopolitan, corticolous species
13	<i>Xenylla uniseta</i> GAMA, 1963	S.	European bryophilous species
14	<i>Willemia intermedia</i> MILLS, 1934	Le.	Holarctic, euedaphic, mycetophilous and acidophilous species
15	<i>Willemia scandinavica</i> STACH, 1949	Gr., Le.	Holarctic, euedaphic, troglophilous species
	Family Brachystomellidae		
16	<i>Brachystomella parvula</i> (SCHÄFFER, 1896)	Le.	European, xerophilous and thermophilous species
17	<i>Brachystomella curvula</i> GISIN, 1948	O.	Cosmopolitan, mesophilous species of moist open habitats
	Family Neanuridae		
18	<i>Fritseea afurcata</i> DENIS, 1927	Co.	Mediterranean, hemiedaphic, hygrophilous species
19	<i>Fritseea mirabilis</i> (TULLBERG, 1871)	Le., TN, S., Sr.	Cosmopolitan, ubiquitous and acidophilous species
20	<i>Fritseea truncata</i> CASSAGNAU, 1958	S.	Palaeartic, common forest species
21	<i>Pseudachorutella assigilata</i> BORNER, 1901	St.	Palaeartic, rare forest species
22	<i>Pseudachorutes dubius</i> KRAUSBAUER, 1898	Le.	Palaeartic, forest species
23	<i>Pseudachorutes parvulus</i> BORNER, 1903	Gr., Le., Rs.	Palaeartic, hemiedaphic, acidophilous forest species
24	<i>Pseudachorutes pratensis</i> RUISEK, 1973	B., Rs., T., T.	European, eurytopic, mesophilous hemiedaphobiont
25	<i>Pseudachorutes subcrassus</i> TULLBERG, 1871	Le., O., S., V.	Palaeartic, mesophilous, forest hemiedaphobiont
26	<i>Micranurida pygmaea</i> BORNER, 1901	Le., OV, Rs., S., T	Cosmopolitan, eurytopic, hygrophilous and acidophilous species
27	<i>Anurida ellipsoides</i> STACH, 1949	Sr.	Palaeartic, euedaphic, hygrophilous species
28	<i>Anurida tullbergi</i> SCHOTT, 1891	Ol., M.	Holarctic, hygrophilous species
29	<i>Mortulina verrucosa</i> (BORNER, 1903)	U.	Central European, epiedaphic species
30	<i>Neanura minuta</i> GISIN, 1963	S.	European, hemiedaphobiont, forest species
31	<i>Neanura moldavica</i> BUȘMACHIU, DEHARVENG, 2008	GB, Le., OV, H., Rs., T., T., S.	R. Moldova, hemiedaphic, mesophilous forest species
32	<i>Neanura muscorum</i> (TEMPLETON, 1835)	Cp., O.	European, hemiedaphic, mesophilous silvicolous species
33	<i>Deutomura albella</i> (STACH, 1920)	Ct., Rs., S.	European, hemiedaphic, mesophilous forest species
34	<i>Deutomura stachi</i> (GISIN, 1952)	Cp., H., S.	European, hemiedaphic, mesophilous forest species
35	<i>Endonura gracilirostris</i> SMOLIS, SKARZYNSKI, POMORSKI, KAPRUS, 2007	B., GB, H., OV, Le.	R. Moldova, Ukraine, hemiedaphic, thermophilous species
36	<i>Lathriopyga nistru</i> BUȘMACHIU, DEHARVENG, WEINER, 2010	L., OV, Rc., Rs., T., V.	R. Moldova, littericolous species, under low shrubs
	Family Odontellidae		
37	<i>Superodontella</i> sp.	U.	R. Moldova, hemiedaphic, silvicolous species of wood decompose
38	<i>Axenyllodes bayeri</i> KSENNEMAN, 1935	GB, Le., V.	European, euedaphic, thermophilous species
39	<i>Stachia populosa</i> (SELGA, 1963)	Rs.	Palaeartic, euedaphic, xerothermophilous species

84	<i>Entomobrya atrocincta</i> SCHOETT, 1896	L., Rs.	Cosmopolitan, mesophilous, thermophilous macrophytobiont
85	<i>Entomobrya handshini</i> STACH, 1922	V.	Europe and Asia Minor, mesophilous and xerophilous species
86	<i>Entomobrya marginata</i> TULLBERG, 1871	Le., V.	Palaeartic, meso- and xerophilous, corticophilous species
87	<i>Entomobrya multifasciata</i> (TULLBERG, 1871)	L., Rs.	Cosmopolitan, xerothermophilous macrophytobiont
88	<i>Entomobrya nivalis</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758)	V.	Cosmopolitan, atmobiont and corticolous, mesophilous species
89	<i>Entomobrya quinquelineata</i> BORNER, 1901	B., Cp., Ml. Le., V., S.	Mediterranean, xerothermophilous macrophytobiont European littericolous species
90	<i>Entomobrya violaceolineata</i> STACH, 1913	S.	Holarctic, mesophilous microphytobiont
91	<i>Lepidocyrtus cyaneus</i> TULLBERG, 1871	Gr., O., Rs., T.	Holarctic, eurytopic, meso and hygrophilous epigeont
92	<i>Lepidocyrtus lignorum</i> (FABRICIUS, 1775)	G., Le., O., S., TN, V.	Holarctic, mesophilous macrophytobiont
93	<i>Lepidocyrtus paradoxus</i> UZEL, 1890	Le., T., TN	Holarctic, epiedaphic and silvicolous species
94	<i>Lepidocyrtus violaceus</i> LUBBOCK, 1873	I., Le.	Cosmopolitan, mycetophagous, hemiedaphic and compost species
95	<i>Pseudosinella alba</i> (PACKARD, 1873)	Gr.	Mediterranean, hemiedaphic, forest species
96	<i>Pseudosinella albida</i> (STACH, 1930)	Cp.	R. Moldova, hemiedaphic, forest species
97	<i>Pseudosinella gruitae</i> GAMA, BUSMACHIU, 2002	Cp., Gr., S., St., R., Rs., T., T.	European, hemiedaphic species of forest litter
98	<i>Pseudosinella horaki</i> RUSEK, 1985	Cr., Gr., Le., L., Rs.	European, hemiedaphic, forest and widely distributed species
99	<i>Pseudosinella imparipunctata</i> GISIN, 1953	Cp., Gr., Le., R., St., T.	R. Moldova, Ukraine, hemiedaphic species of forest and open habitats
100	<i>Pseudosinella moldavica</i> GAMA, BUȘMACHIU, 2002	Ol.	European, hemiedaphic species
101	<i>Pseudosinella noseki</i> RUSEK, 1985	GB, Gr., H., Le., MI, OV, Rs.	Cosmopolitan, eurytopic, hemiedaphic species
102	<i>Pseudosinella octopunctata</i> BORNER, 1901	Le.	Cosmopolitan hemiedaphic compost species
103	<i>Pseudosinella sexoculata</i> SCHOT, 1902	T., OV.	Cosmopolitan, corticophilous species of warm habitats
104	<i>Willowisia nigromaculata</i> (LUBBOCK, 1873)	O., C., GB.	European, xerophilous, epiedaphic species
105	<i>Orchesella albofasciata</i> STACH, 1960	Gr., Le., TN, S., Le.	Holarctic, atmobiont and epiedaphic, mesophilous species
106	<i>Orchesella cincta</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758)	S.	Holarctic, atmobiont and epiedaphic, mesophilous species
107	<i>Orchesella flavescens</i> (BOURLET, 1839)	L., Le., O., Rs., TN, T., V.	R. Moldova, Romania, Ukraine, atmobiont
108	<i>Orchesella maculosa</i> IONESCO, 1915	Rs., T.	European, xerothermophilous species of forest and open habitats
109	<i>Orchesella multifasciata</i> STSCHERBAKOW, 1898	V., S.	European, atmobiont and epiedaphic species
110	<i>Orchesella orientalis</i> STACH, 1960	O.	European, atmobiont and epiedaphic species
111	<i>Orchesella pseudobifasciata</i> STACH, 1960	V.	Palaeartic, atmobiont and xerothermophilous species
112	<i>Orchesella spectabilis</i> TULLBERG, 1872	V.	European, atmobiont, xerothermophilous species
113	<i>Orchesella xerothermica</i> STACH, 1960	T.	European, ubiquitous, synanthropic, thermophilous species
114	<i>Seira domestica</i> (NICOLET, 1841)	Cp., L., Le., OV, Rs., T.	Mediterranean, thermophilous, forest hemiedaphobiont
115	<i>Heteromurus major</i> (MONIEZ, 1889)	C., Cp., G., H., Le., TN	Cosmopolitan, hygro- and mesophilous, euedaphobiont
116	<i>Heteromurus nitidus</i> (TEMPLETON, 1835)		
	Family Cyphoderidae		
117	<i>Cyphoderus albinus</i> (NICOLET, 1842)	B., Cp., GB, G., T.	Palaeartic, myrmecophilous, mesophilous, euedaphobiont
118	<i>Cyphoderus bidenticulatus</i> (PARONA, 1888)	B., Le., S., TN	Mediterranean, myrmecophilous, thermophilous, euedaphobiont
	Family Tomoceridae		
119	<i>Tomocerus minor</i> (LUBBOCK, 1862)	B.	Cosmopolitan, hygrophilous, forest species
120	<i>Tomocerus vulgaris</i> (TULLBERG, 1871)	Le.	Holarctic, mesophilous, silvicolous species
121	<i>Pogonognathellus flavescens</i> (TULLBERG, 1871)	I., S.	Holarctic, hygrophilous, acidophilous, silvicolous species
	Family Neelidae		
122	<i>Megalothorax minimus</i> WILLEM, 1900	Gr., T.	Cosmopolitan, eurytopic, mesophilous euedaphobiont
123	<i>Neelus mirinus</i> FOLSOM, 1896	Gr., I., S.	Cosmopolitan, mesophilous euedaphobiont
	Family Sminthuridae		
124	<i>Sminthurides aquaticus</i> BOURLET, 1842	H.	Holarctic, hygrophilous, epineustic species
125	<i>Sphaeridia pumilis</i> (KRAUSBAUER, 1898)	Le., Rs., Sr., S.	Cosmopolitan, ubiquitous, mesophilous species
	Family Arrhopalitidae		
126	<i>Arrhopalites</i> sp.	Le., OV, St.	R. Moldova, mesothermophilous silvicolous species
	Family Katiannidae		

127	<i>Sminthurinus aureus</i> (LUBBOCK, 1862)		Le., Rs., V., S.	Palearctic, eurytopic, mesophilous species
128	<i>Sminthurinus bimaculatus</i> , AXELSON, 1902		O., Sr.	Palearctic, hygrophilous, species of open habitats
129	<i>Sminthurinus elegans</i> (FITCH, 1863)		Rs., Sr.	European, xerothermophilous species
130	<i>Sminthurinus niger</i> (LUBBOCK, 1868)		L.	Palearctic, eurytopic species
	Family Dicyrtomidae			
131	<i>Dicyrtoma fusca</i> (LUBBOCK, 1873)		Gr.	Holarctic, meadow macrophytobiont
132	<i>Ptenothrix atra</i> (LINNAEUS, 1868)		Le.	Palearctic, silvicolous species
133	<i>Ptenothrix leucostrigata</i> STACH, 1957		Sr., B.	European, silvicolous species
	Family Sminthuridae			
134	<i>Lipothrix tubocki</i> (TULLBERG, 1872)		M.	Palearctic, silvicolous macrophytobiont
135	<i>Allacma fusca</i> (LINNE, 1758)		Le.	Holarctic, silvicolous and corticophilous species
136	<i>Caprainea marginata</i> (SCHOTT, 1893)		Ch., Gr., L., S.	Palearctic, xerothermophilous species
137	<i>Sminthurus viridis</i> (LINNAEUS, 1758)		GB, Gr., O.	Holarctic, mesophilous, meadows macrophytobiont
138	<i>Sminthurus wahlgreni</i> STACH, 1920		Gr.	European, meadows macrophytobiont