

First record of the Atlantic Beach-Cricket *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* on the Spanish mainland

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Abstract

On June 30, 2018 a population of the Atlantic Beach-Cricket *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* was found near Urbanización Gema del Mar in Asturias (Spain). This is the first record for mainland Spain. This small cricket lives in a narrow strip of shingle at the Atlantic coast in Western Europe and northern Africa. Not many localities are known, but probably it is under recorded because of the habitat which is not much investigated.

Zusammenfassung

Am 30. Juni 2018 wurde in der Nähe von Urbanización Gema del Mar in Asturien (Spanien) eine Population der Atlantic Beach-Cricket *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* gefunden. Dass ist der erste Nachweis für das spanische Festland. Diese kleine Grille lebt in einem schmalen Kiesstreifen an der Atlantikküste in Westeuropa und Nordafrika. Bis jetzt sind nicht viele Fundorte bekannt, aber mit gezielter Suche können wahrscheinlich mehr gefunden werden.

Introduction

The Atlantic Beach-Cricket *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* Gorochov, 1996 (fig. 1, 2) is known from the Canary Islands (Spain), Algeria (Habibas Islands) and Morocco (Tanger) and the Atlantic coast of Great Britain, France and southern Portugal (GOROCHOV & LLORENTE 2001, HOCHKIRCH et al. 2016, Forumbretagne-vivante.org). Many large and connected populations are found on the rocky coast of Brittany (France) and, to a lesser degree, the southern coast of Portugal. In other areas the populations seem to be more scarce and isolated.

During a visit of the authors to northern Spain special attention was given to searching for the habitat of this species, shingle beaches. On June 30, 2018 a population was found near Urbanización Gema del Mar in Asturias (Spain). This is the first record for mainland Spain (fig. 3).

New population

The new locality where *P. vicentae* was found is a shingle beach (fig. 4) on the west bank of Ría Villaviciosa at Urbanización Gema del Mar, opposite Playa de Rodiles in Asturias (43.537, -5.388). About 8 nymphs were found under and between stones (fig. 5). Some specimens were reared to adult (fig. 1, 2). The voucher material (including DNA-samples) is stored at Naturalis Biodiversity Center in Leiden (The Netherlands).



Fig. 1.: *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*, male. Urbanización Gema del Mar.
Photo Roy Kleukers.



Fig. 2.: *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae*, female. Urbanización Gema del Mar.
Photo Roy Kleukers.



Fig. 3.: All localities where *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* is known to occur. The Canary Islands are shown as an inset at the top left corner. The new site at Urbanización Gema del Mar is indicated with a star.

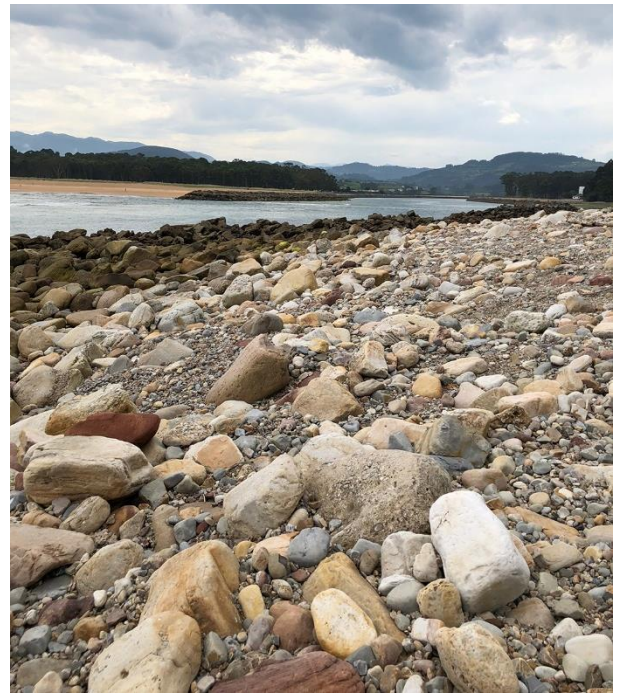


Fig. 4.: Habitat of *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* at Urbanización Gema del Mar. Photo Baudewijn Odé.



Fig. 5.: Habitat of *Pseudomogoplistes vicentae* at Urbanización Gema del Mar. Photo Baudewijn Odé.

Discussion

Pseudomogoplistes vicentae is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN European Red list (HOCHKIRCH et al. 2016). With this one new record, no change is expected to this assessment. However, this finding proves that directed searches may result in the discovery of more populated habitat in France, Portugal, Spain and northern Africa. Especially climate change could pose a threat to this small cricket which lives in a narrow strip along the sea (SUTTON 2015).

An important way of colonising new localities could be through driftwood. When females oviposit in wood this can be picked up during high tide or storms and transported over long distances (pers. comm. Karim Vahed).

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