

The Occurrence of *Troglophilus cavicola* (Rhaphidophoridae)  
in the Czech Republic

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During the evidence of the bats in the anthropomorphic underground passage at the village of Hrubá Voda, 320 m a.s.l., (code of map field 6370) the population of *Troglophilus cavicola* (Kollar, 1833) was found (Fig. 1, 2). (For the code of map field see ZELENÝ (1972) and PRUNNER & MÍKA (1996)).

The diameter of the passage is about 1.5 m and its length is about 100 m. Its direction is from the north to the south. It is open on both ends. Southern mouth leads into the area of the old people's home at this village. The diameter of northern mouth is smaller, about 30 cm. The passage was dug in slate by the Italian prisoners after the World War I. Its original function was to conduct water to the local sawmill. Now it is non-functional, only sometimes water filters through the floor.

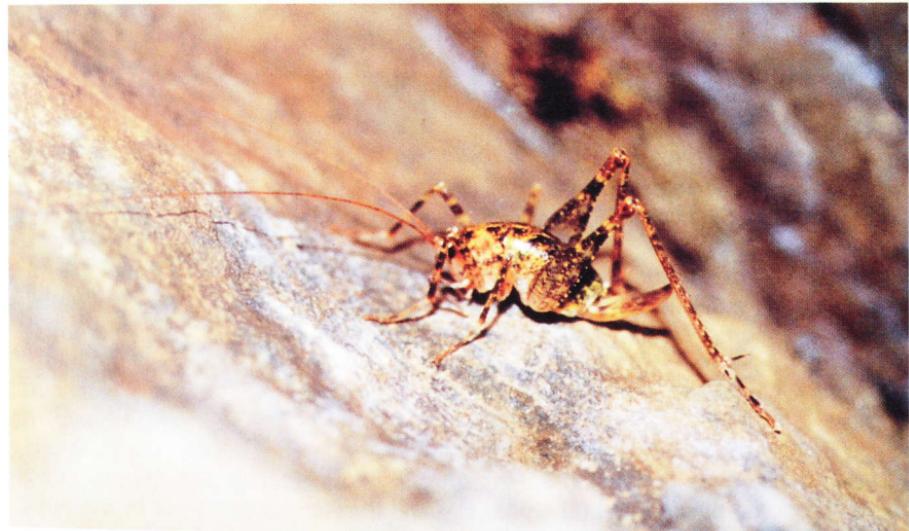


Fig. 1 A female of *Troglophilus cavicola* observed on 30 January 1998  
(photo by Jirí Šafář)

The first observation of hundreds of specimens was on 30 January 1998 (observ. J. Šafář and T. Bartonička). On 28 January 1999 P. Koutný and J. Šafář observed the hundreds of nymphs and females (2 ff J. Holuša et A. Galvagni det., coll. A.

Galvagni). The specimens were found in several groups in the central part of the passage. On 23 June 1999 we found only several females and nymphs in the surrounding of the both mouths (2 ff leg., coll., det. J. Holuša; 1 nymph, 2 ff leg., coll., det. P. Kocárek):

- northern part - one nymph and 1 female inside about 5 m from the mouth; 2 females outside in the crack;
- central part - no specimens;
- southern part - 2 nymphs and 3 females inside 2 m from the mouth, 3 females outside in the crack.



Fig. 2 Several females of *Troglophilus cavicola* observed on 28 January 1999  
(photo by Jirí Šafář)

It means, that during the winter specimens prefer warmer places (central part of the passage), and during the vegetation season they migrate outside the passage. It is in accordance with the observations of OBENBERGER (1926) in Dalmatia.

*Troglophilus cavicola* is distributed in the western part of the Balkan peninsula, northern Italy and southern Austria (BACCETTI 1981). The northern edge of its range is in the Lower Austria (OBENBERGER 1926). In spite of this the possibility of the autochthonous population in Hrubá Voda is improbable with the respect to the anthropomorphic origin of the passage and the female character of the population (no male has been found yet). This species has not been found in about 60 galleries, caves and basements throughout Moravia that were observed due to the research of bats by the other two authors (see ZUKAL 1996, 1997) (three of them are even in the close surrounding of the gallery where we found the population of *Troglophilus cavicola*).

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