

***Chorthippus oschei* von Helversen, 1986 new to the fauna of Slovakia
(Orthoptera: Acrididae)**

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Zusammenfassung

Chorthippus albomarginatus wird auf dem Balkan ersetzt durch die Schwesternart *Ch. oschei*. Beide Arten bilden in der Ukraine und Mittel-Ungarn eine breite Hybridzone. Nördlich dieser Hybridzone fanden wir ein einzelnes Männchen von *Ch. oschei* 2006 im slowakischen Karst, nahe der Ungarischen Grenze. Dieses ist der nördlichste bekannte Fundort von *Ch. oschei* und zugleich der Erstnachweis für die Slowakei.

Over the past years we have learnt that most central European species of the genus *Chorthippus* do not extend their ranges far into the Iberian Peninsular or the Balkan region. The bulk of species in Middle Europe is of Siberian origin, whereas southwestern and southeastern Europe is inhabited by more or less closely related sister species. This is obvious especially in the *Chorthippus biguttulus*-group, where all three Middle European species are replaced in the Balkans. The same is true for the *Ch. albomarginatus*-group. The Siberian species *Ch. albomarginatus* is replaced in Southeast Europe by the sister species *Ch. oschei* von Helversen, 1986. However, only recently both species were found to form a broad hybrid zone in the Ukraine and Hungary (VEDENINA & HELVERSEN 2003). Re-examination of pictures taken August 11, 1991 by the first author from a male at the Hortobagy National Park confirmed the occurrence of morphological mixed characters in individuals from this central Hungarian region. Nonetheless, we were astonished to find not a hybrid but a pure *Ch. oschei* male in Slovakia, close to the Hungarian border. This is the first record of this species from Slovakia, not mentioned before by KOČÁREK et al. (1999, 2005), and the northernmost record for this species so far.

***Chorthippus oschei* von Helversen, 1986**

Material studied: 1 male, 06.08.2006 Slovakia Karst region (=Slovensky Kras), SW Ardovalo, 48.5330°N, 20.4170°E, 312 m a.s.l., grassy vegetation on a southern slope (deposited in Collectio Lehmann, No. 5375).

This single male was found together with *Chorthippus dorsatus* (three females plus a great number of nymphs) and a number of adult *Ch. parallelus*. The weather was very cloudy, so no further *Ch. oschei* adults could be found within 30 minutes of inspection.

The morphologically examination showed a remarkably colourful habit: the dark colouration of the hind leg in combination with a whitish coloured hind tarsus, particularly a white third segment, and a red abdominal tip extending on the back proximal to the 6th tergite, were at first glance obvious. After preparation we found that the number of stridulatory pegs on the inner side of the hind femur were 180 and therefore clearly in the range of pure *Ch. oschei* (VEDENINA et al. 2007).

It must be awaited whether a population of *Ch. oschei* has established north of the hybrid zone or whether the single male was a replaced individual, e.g. a hitchhiker to cars. *Ch. oschei* clearly replaces *Ch. albomarginatus* in south-eastern Europe, extending northwards into Slovenia (Gomboc pers. comm.) and Hungary (VEDENINA & HELVERSEN 2003). However, populations of Northeast Slovenia and Southeast Austria need a further examination in the future.

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