

**FIRST RECORDS OF *AILOPUS THALASSINUS* (FABRICIUS, 1781) AND *EUTHYSTIRA BRACHYPTERA* (OCSKAY, 1826) (ORTHOPTERA: ACRIDIDAE) IN LITHUANIA**

EDUARDAS BUDRYS<sup>1</sup>, KAZIMIERAS MARTINAITIS<sup>2</sup>, KRISTINA VALINČIENĖ<sup>2</sup>, ROMAS FERENCA<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Nature Research Centre, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, Lithuania.

<sup>2</sup>Kaunas T. Ivanauskas Museum of Zoology, Laisvės al. 106, LT-44253 Kaunas, Lithuania.

E-mail: eduardas.budrys@gamtc.lt.

## Introduction

The check-list of Orthoptera of Lithuanian fauna currently includes 46 species (Budrys *et al.*, 2015 and references there; Ferenc *et al.*, 2017). The aim of this study is presentation of records of two other species. One of them, *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826), was earlier published in the Fauna Europaea database (Heller, 2013), though occurrence of this species in Lithuania was not confirmed by verifiable data.

## Material and Methods

The insects were observed, and their pictures were taken by Kazimieras Martinaitis (K. M.) and Kristina Valinčienė (K. V.).

List of localities

Administrative district	Locality	Coordinates (LAT, LONG)
Kalgraužiai,	Palanga t.,	56.0319, 21.1173;
Nida env.,	Neringa t.,	55.2969, 20.9974.

## List of species

### *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781)

Nida env., 21 08 2019, 1♀ (K. V.: Fig. 1).

### *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826)

Kalgraužiai, 08 08 2018, 1♀ (K. M.: Fig. 2).

## Discussion

*Aiolopus thalassinus* (Acrididae: Oedipodinae) is a widespread Old World species: the distribution area covers most of Palaearctic (except the northern parts of it), Palaeotropical and Australasian regions. The nearest to Lithuania known occurrence sites are in Poland (Bazyluk & Liana, 2000; Mielczarek & Grobelny, 2018) and Belarus (Prischepchik & Storozhenko, 2019), they all are south of the 53rd parallel. The species is not recorded in Latvia, Estonia and Fennoscandia. *A. thalassinus* may be another example of a species that is spreading to the north due to climate warming.



**Fig. 1.** *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Nida env.; photo Kristina Valinčienė).



**Fig. 2.** *Euthystira brachyptera* (Kalgraužiai; photo Kazimieras Martinaitis).

*Euthystira brachyptera* (Acrididae: Gomphocerinae) is a transpalearctic species, widespread from Spain to the Far East of Russia. It inhabits wide range of open habitats from dry calcareous meadows to wet fens and woodland clearings (Wagner, 2019). Presence of this grasshopper in Lithuania was expected, though not confirmed by verifiable data. Lack of the data is partly explained by relatively low research efforts, however, it is obvious that the species is much scarcer than many other local grasshoppers. Distribution, abundance and habitat preferences of *E. brachyptera* in Lithuania need further exploration.

The check-list of Orthoptera of the Lithuanian fauna with 48 species is expectedly close to its completeness. Among the orthopterans, which are not yet recorded, however, which finding in Lithuania is probable, we may mention a widespread species *Gomphocerippus rufus* (Linnaeus, 1758), southern species *Stenobothrus nigromaculatus*

(Herrich-Schäffer, 1840), *Stauroderus scalaris* (Fischer de Waldheim, 1846) and *Chorthippus vagans* (Eversmann, 1848), and a synanthropic species *Tachycines asynamorus* Adelung, 1902.

### Acknowledgements

A part of the research was carried out using the Open Access to research infrastructure of the Nature Research Centre under Lithuanian open access network initiative.

### References

- Bazyłuk W., Liana A. 2000. *Prostoskrzydłe. Orthoptera. Katalog fauny Polski XVII, 2*. Warszawa: Muzeum i Instytut zoologii PAN.
- Budrys E., Našlėnienė A., Winkler C. 2015. First records of *Conocephalus fuscus* and *Omocestus rufipes* (Orthoptera: Conocephalidae, Acrididae) in Lithuania. *New and Rare for Lithuania Insect Species* 27: 12–14.
- Ferenca R., Tamutis V., Martinaitis K. 2017. *Myrmecophilus acervorum* (Panzer, 1799) (Orthoptera: Myrmecophilidae) – a new species for Lithuanian fauna. *Bulletin of the Lithuanian Entomological Society* 1 (29): 8–10.
- Heller, K.-G. 2013. Fauna Europaea: Orthoptera. Fauna Europaea version 2017.6. Available from <https://fauna-eu.org> (Accessed November 15, 2019)
- Mielczarek S., Grobelny S. 2018. Stanowiska sinicy nadbrzeżnej *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781) (Orthoptera, Acrididae) we wschodniej Wielkopolsce. *Przegląd Przyrodniczy* 29 (1): 118–124.
- Prishepchik O.V., Storozhenko S. Yu. 2019. To the knowledge of Orthoptera of the Stolin district of Brest oblast, Republic of Belarus. *Far Eastern Entomologist* 393: 24–28.
- Wagner W. 2019. Orthoptera and their ecology. Available from [http://www.pyrgus.de/Euthystira\\_en.html](http://www.pyrgus.de/Euthystira_en.html) (Accessed November 15, 2019)

### **Pirmieji skėriukų *Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781) ir *Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826) stebėjimai Lietuvoje**

*E. BUDRYS, K. MARTINAITIS, K. VALINČIENĖ, R. FERENCA*

### Santrauka

Straipsnyje pateikiami duomenys apie pirmuosius pakrantinio skėriuko (*Aiolopus thalassinus* (Fabricius, 1781)) ir trumpasparnio skėriuko (*Euthystira brachyptera* (Ocskay, 1826)) stebėjimus Lietuvos teritorijoje: vietovės, datos, individų skaičius ir nuotraukos. Pakrantinis skėriukas yra pietinė rūšis, galimai plintanti į šiaurę dėl klimato šiltėjimo, kurios arealas jau pasiekė Lietuvą. Trumpasparnis skėriukas yra plačiai paplitusi rūšis, kurios buvimas Lietuvoje buvo tikėtinas.

*Received: 21 November, 2019*