

New records on synanthropic Blattoptera and Orthoptera in Latvia

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Abstract: New faunal and ecological information on one synanthropic Blattoptera species (*Periplaneta americana*) and two species of Orthoptera (*Tachycines asynamorus*, *Acheta domestica*) in Latvia are presented. *P. americana* and *T. asynamorus* are each recorded from a single site, while *A. domestica* is noted from 21 sites.

Key words: Blattoptera, Orthoptera, synanthropic species, Latvia.

Cockroaches (Blattoptera) and crickets and grasshoppers (Orthoptera) are insufficiently studied in Latvia. New information on the distribution and ecology of three synanthropic species in Latvia are presented.

Periplaneta americana (Linnaeus, 1758)

The American cockroach

Cosmopolitan species, recently introduced to Latvia. Until recently, the only records of this species from Latvia were from cultures held at the Rīga National Zoological garden and the Latgale Zoological garden.

New records: Rīga city, 10 Ilūkstes Str., Rīga 86th school apartments, XI.2002. (1 specimen) leg. G.Sidorovs. It is of course possible that this specimen had escaped from a private culture.

Tachycines asynamorus Adelung, 1902

Greenhouse stone cricket, Camel cricket

Cosmopolitan species, obviously introduced to Latvia. The single known record is from the 1930s, in the greenhouses of the Botanical garden of University of Latvia (Princis 1932, 1943).

New records: Daugavpils (SE Latvia), 24 Tukuma St., boiler room of the heating network of city, II.2001, leg. V.Vahruševs. In a room

measuring 600x400x1200cm, ca 150 individuals were collected, without any obvious negative effect on the size of population. The room was dark, with relatively high humidity, a constant temperature above 18°C. Spiders, myriapods, mites, bristletails, mosquitoes, other invertebrates and “mould” were also present, all of which were obviously used as food by *T. asynamorus*. The pest control had been done in the spring of 2001, but the population of camel crickets survived. Part of it has been taken into culture at Latgales Zoological Garden.

Acheta domestica (Linnaeus, 1758)

House cricket

Holarctic species.

The Entomological Society of Latvia (LEB) nominated the house cricket as Latvian Insect of the year in 2002. For that reason, LEB collected records of this species from Latvian inhabitants. The purpose of this was to clarify the present distribution of the house cricket in Latvia. 21 report about the observations of species were received. These findings are listed below and presented on a map (fig. 1). All observations are from the Kurzeme province (W Latvia) and Zemgale province (S Latvia), and none were received from other parts of the country. Some populations are also known from large cities such as the Rīga agglomeration.

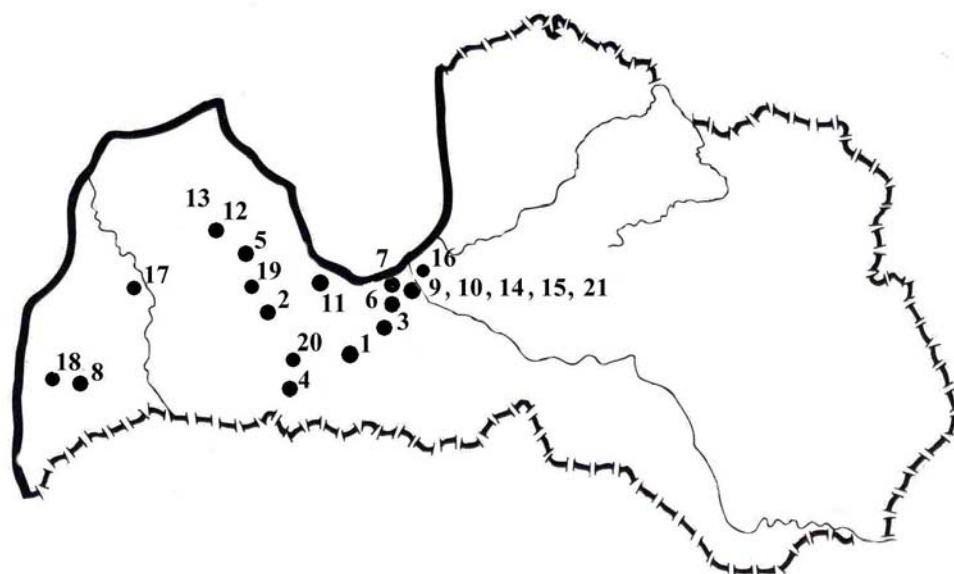


Figure 1. Recent distribution of *Acheta domestica* (L.) in Latvia.

Abbreviations: dist. – district, st. - street. Recorder is mentioned in brackets after notes.

1. Jelgava city, fire-department, 1 male has been observed during the summer of 1992 (E.Račinskis).
2. Tukums dist., Zemīte parish, farm “Rubeņi”, large number of individuals have been observed since 25.10.1997 (V.Lācis).
3. Rīga dist., Jaunolaine, SIA “Tatkolat”, regularly 10 - 30 males have been observed since the summer of 2000 (Ainārs).
4. Dobele dist., Lielauce parish, farm “Počas”, 3 individuals have been observed on 15.10.2000, extinct since that time (J.Gailis).
5. Talsu dist., Virbu parish, 5Dārza st., 1 male has been observed as from February till May 2001 (D.Ābele).
6. Rīga dist., Jaunmārupe, 13 Pīlādžu st., 1 male has been observed as from June till August of 2001 (J.Lejnieks).
7. Rīga dist., Babīte, 17 Meža st., 3 individuals have been observed as from June till August of 2001 (J.Putniņš).
8. Liepāja dist., Durbe appanage, Padone, farm “Ūsiņi”, several individuals have been observed in cowshed as from June till August of 2001 (Ārija).
9. Rīga city, corner of Volgundes and Ķemeru st., 1 male has been observed in the summer of 2001 near private house (I.Mardegā, E.Račinskis).
10. Rīga city, Zaslauks, 1 male has been observed once in the summer of 2001 near railway station (E.Račinskis).
11. Tukums dist., Ķesterciems, farm “Skujenieki”, 1 male has been observed once in August of 2001; I.Ruslevica).
12. Talsi city, 1 male has been observed once in September of 2000 (A.Vikmane).
13. Talsi dist., Valdgale parish, farm “Zaļmeži”, many individuals have been observed since September of 2001 (I.Fridrihsone).
14. Rīga city, 18 Rostokas st., 1 male has been observed once in October of 2001 (Marija).
15. Rīga city, factory “Furnieris”, 1 individual has been observed in the pump room of a gluing-polishing department on 14.09.2001 (D.Telnov).
16. Rīga city, Rīga Zoo, many individuals have been observed in apartments since 2001 (A. Napolov).
17. Kuldīga dist., Padure parish, farm “Laimdota”, several individuals have been regularly observed since January of 2002 (anonymous).
18. Liepāja dist., Grobiņa, company “Mans 1”, many individuals have been observed since January of 2002 (anonymous).
19. Tukums dist., Pūre, many individuals have been observed in j.s.c. “Pūre” until 18. 03. 2002. Now treated by pest control (anonymous).
20. Dobele city, many individuals have been observed in apartments since May of 2002 (anonymous).
21. Rīga city, factory “Furnieris”, 2 individuals have been observed in apartments of gluing-polishing department on 03.01.2003 (D.Telnov).

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Kopsavilkums

Prusaki un taisnspārņi pēdējos gadu desmitos ir relatīvi maz pētītas kukaiņu grupas Latvijā. Rakstā sniegta jauna informācija par trīs sinantropo sugu - Amerikas prusaka *Periplaneta americana* (L., 1758) (Blattidae), siltumnīcu sienāža *Tachycines asynamorus* Adelung, 1902 (Rhaphidophoridae) un mājas circeņa *Acheta domestica* (L., 1758) (Gryllidae) izplatību Latvijā. Amerikas prusaks ir kosmopolītiska suga, kas Latvijā līdz šim bija konstatēta tikai Rīgas un Latgales zooloģiskajos dārzos. Sugas atradums Rīgas skolā varētu liecināt par tās izplatīšanos. Arī siltumnīcu sienāzis ir kosmopolītiska suga, kas Latvijā pirmo reizi konstatēta 1930-tajos gados LU Botāniskā dārza (Rīgā) siltumnīcās. 2001. gadā Daugavpilī konstatēta liela siltumnīcu sienāža populācija. Sienāžu apdzīvotās telpas netiek apgaismotas, tās ir ar samērā augstu gaisa mitrumu, bet gaisa temperatūra ir aptuveni +18°C. Mājas circeņis ir transholarktiska un Latvijai raksturīga suga. Latvijas Entomoloģijas biedrība nominēja mājas circeņi par 2002. gada kukaini. Akcijas rezultātā tika saņemts 21 ziņojums par mājas circeņa novērojumiem, kas ir no Kurzemes, Zemgales un Rīgas.

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