SHORT NOTES

Four Spider (Araneae) Species New to the Fauna of Latvia

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A list of Latvian spider species was prepared by Relys & Spunģis in 2003. Later, Spuņģis (2005) published notes about presence of *Argiope bruennichi* in Latvia. Additionally, in 2008 (Cera, Spuņģis 2008, Cera 2008) mentioned 11 species new to the fauna of Latvia. During the resent investigations in the Maritime Lowland four species new to the fauna of Latvia were found. The species were identified by using keys (Almquist 2006, Heimer, Nentwig et al. 2003). The spider systematics follows World Spider Catalogue (Platnic 2000).

Linyphiidae

Nusoncus nosutus (SCHENKEL, 1925)

Talsi district, Lake Engure Nature Park, 20.06.2000 (13) sweep netting, moist calcareous meadow.

Walckenaeria vigilax (BLACKWALL, 1853) Talsi district, Lake Engure Nature Park, 19.06.2007 (1 $\stackrel{\frown}{d}$), sweep netting, white dune.

Clubionidae

Clubiona subtilis L.KOCH, 1876

Talsi district, Lake Engure Nature Park, 27.06.1996 (1^{\bigcirc}) sweep netting, calcareous fen, 6.08.1998 (1^{\bigcirc}) sweep netting, flood plain calcareous fen, 22.06.2001 (1^{\bigcirc}) , sweep netting, calcareous fen.

Thomisidae

Ozyptila gertschi KURATA, 1944 Tukums district, Apšuciems fen, 20.05-17.06.2009 (3°_{\downarrow} , 1°_{\downarrow}) pitfall traps, fen.

Three spider species were found in the four different habitats on the territory of Lake Engure Nature Park and one in the Apšuciems fen. *Walckenaeria vigilax* is a Holarctic species (Platnic 2000) and can be found in the wet places on the grass and mosses (Locket, Millidge 1953). *Nusoncus nosutus* is distributed in Europe (Platnic 2000) and is rare species, which was found on the trunks of trees (Nentwig et al. 2003). *Clubiona subtilis* is Palaearctic species (Platnic 2000) and can be found in the flood-plain meadows near lakes and also in the dunes (Almquist 2006). *Ozyptila gertschi* has Holarctic distribution (Platnic 2000) and can be found in the flood-plain the flood).

The recorded spider species are found also in Estonia, but *Walckenaeria vigilax* occurs also in Lithuania (Van Helsdingen 2009).

Some biotopes (like Lake Engure surroundings) were under-investigated by previous researchers (late M.Šternbergs). Thus, a study of new biotopes and using of new methods (sweep-netting) for study of spiders could give possibility to find new species for the fauna. At the same time, we can not exclude the immigration of new species by ballooning what is common way of distribution for spiders, particularly Linyphiidae.

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