

SHORT NOTE

**First record of *Phaneroptera falcata* (PODA, 1761)
(Orthoptera, Phaneropteridae) in Latvia****KRISTAPS SOKOLOVSKIS¹, JĀNIS SUVEIZDA²**

1 – Institute of Systematic biology, Daugavpils University, Vienības iela 13, LV-5401, Daugavpils, Latvia; e-mail: kristaps.sokolovskis@gmail.com

2 – Špoģi secondary school, Daugavpils novads, Višķu pagasts, Šosejas iela 3, LV-5481, Špoģi, Latvia; e-mail: joonc@inbox.lv

Species of the genus *Phaneroptera* (SERVILLE, 1831) are long-winged thermophilous bush-crickets (Kočárek et al. 2008), widespread in the Old World and Australia (Tauber et al. 2001). The phytophilous / arbusticolous and very mobile (capable of flying) bush-cricket (Fartmann et al. 2008) *P. falcata* is Euro-Siberian species, distributed from France and Belgium to Japan (Kočárek et al. 2008). In Asiatic part of Russia North border of *P. falcata* distribution area goes between 51° and 51,40°N (Böhme et al. 2011). In Ukraine, N-border line is not clearly known but possibly runs between 52° and 53°N. The northern borderline of distribution area through Belarus and the European part of the Russian Federation needs more faunistic research efforts (Böhme et al. 2011).

Phaneroptera falcata is recorded for the first time in Latvia: Daugavpils County, Ambelī parish (56°01'27"N/26°51'44"E). Jānis Suveizda in 24.08.2011 observed approximately 20 individuals. Bush-crickets were photographed in natural environment (Fig. 1) and 2 specimens (1♂, 1♀, leg. J. Suveizda) collected for precise determination (det. K. Sokolovskis). The examined material is deposited in the collection of Institute of Systematic Biology of Daugavpils University.

The habitat where new record was made was covered with ruderal plant community, where dominant species were: *Cirsium arvense*, *Echinochloa crusgalli* and *Galinsoga parviflora*. From dendroflora some *Betula pendula*, *Alnus glutinosa* and *Salix* sp. were present as well. Previous studies show that species occupy a

wide variety of open habitats, from xerothermic vegetation to wetlands, including ruderal habitats in towns, but it demands taller herbaceous or shrubby vegetation (or trees) (Kočárek et al. 2008). *P. falcata* is not restricted to one orthopteran community and occur in both natural and semi-natural habitats (Fartmann et al. 2008).

In adjacent territories, *Phaneroptera falcata* has been already reported from South Lithuania (Ivanskas, Rimšaitė 2008) but is not yet known from Belarus (Böhme et al. 2011). No data are available about findings in Estonia.

The expansion of *P. falcata* to the north has been noticed in several countries of Western Europe. This eurytopic species is able to quickly colonize new sites (Kočárek et al. 2008). Unlike many species of bush-crickets whose eggs must pass through two winters before hatching, *P. falcata* eggs mature after one winter (Ivanskas, Rimšaitė 2008). This means that current territory should be monitored next July-August to find out whether the eggs survive the winter successfully.

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Figure 1. Female specimen of *Phaneroptera falcata* (PODA, 1761) from SE Latvia, Ambelī parish (photo I. Suveizda).