

# A centipede in Greenland: *Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert, 1868 (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha, Henicopidae)

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*Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert, 1868 (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha, Henicopidae) is recorded as the first centipede from Greenland. 3♂♂ were found at Grønnedal in S. Greenland. An indoor find of *Lithobius forficatus* (L.) from W. Greenland is also mentioned.

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This is the first report of a myriapod from Greenland. Three females of *Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert, 1868, were taken under stones at Grønnedal, SW Greenland (61°14'N, 48°05'W) on 10.ix.1959, by cand. mag. Torben Andersen, who was at that time a teacher at the naval station in Grønnedal and in addition made entomological collections and studies, mainly on spiders.

According to Mr. Andersen (pers.comm.) the sample which contained *L. fulvicornis* was taken during a study of the biology of the spider *Steatoda albomarginata* (Degeer) in a scree area on a SW-facing slope about 500 m NE of the outermost building of the naval station, and about 250 m above sea level. The vegetation of the locality is sparse and may be characterized as dry heath, but above and surrounding the scree is found a vigorous vegetation with *Salix glauca*-shrub, ferns and luxuriant herb fields. The sample with *L. fulvicornis* further contained specimens of the weevil *Otiorrhynchus arcticus* (O. Fabricius) and the ground-beetle *Trichocellus cognatus* (Gyllenhal).

*L. fulvicornis* was a likely candidate for the first species of centipede to be found in the free in Greenland: It is extremely widespread in the West Palaearctic subregion including Iceland and the entire Nearctic subregion, and it reaches latitudes north of 60° in Fennoscandia and North America

(Andersson 1984, Eason 1970, Kevan 1983, Palmén 1948). So far it has not been reported with certainty in the Soviet Union east of ca. 50° E (Zalesskaja 1978). Much of the distribution of *L. fulvicornis* may be due to human transport, but Kevan (1983) regards the remoteness of some of the Canadian localities as evidence that they represent natural occurrences. Dispersal of the species will be favoured by the fact that it is parthenogenetic over most of its range, males being known only from the Azores and the Canary Islands (Eason 1964, Andersson 1984). In this respect it is in accordance with a trend of adaptation to Arctic conditions found among a number of other arthropod taxa (cf. Downes 1962, 1965; Böcher 1971).

The material reported on here is kept in the Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, where also a sample of another lithobiomorph centipede from Greenland is present, viz., a single specimen of the ubiquitous *Lithobius forficatus* (L., 1758) (Lithobiidae), taken in a building in Ivigtut, West Greenland, in 1938. This obviously accidental introduction of a centipede to Greenland is of considerably less interest than the find of *L. fulvicornis*, which – whether due to anthropochory or not – seems to represent a population which is able to survive outdoors in Greenland. The place where *L. fulvicornis* was found is loca-

ted in the climatically most favoured, subarctic part of Greenland, where, e.g., birch trees (*Betula pubescens*) are found in the innermost parts of the fjords. The beetles found together with *L. fulvicornis* both have a pronouncedly southern distribution in Greenland (S of about 65°N).

We are grateful to Dr. E. H. Eason for comments on the manuscript.

### Sammendrag

En grønlandsk skolopender: *Lamyctes fulvicornis* Meinert, 1868

Skolopendre har hidtil ikke været kendt fra Grønland. Nu er imidlertid *Lamyctes fulvicornis* fundet ved Grønnedal i Sydgrønland. Tre hunner blev fundet under sten i 1959. Arten er vidt udbredt på den nordlige halvkugle og er næsten overalt parthenogenetisk. Det er uvist, om det grønlandske fund skyldes indslæbning, men under alle omstændigheder ser arten ud til at kunne klare sig udenørs i Sydgrønland.

### Addendum

After the manuscript went to press, two further females of *L. fulvicornis* were discovered in the material of Torben Andersen. They are from the same locality and the same date as the three females recorded above.

### References

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### MINDRE MEDDELELSE

#### Tamarisk-cikaden, *Opsius stactogalus* Fieber, 1866, fundet i Danmark

På en tamariskbusk i Gentofte (NEZ, UB 48) har jeg den 30.viii.-20.ix.1984 fundet talrige eksemplarer af *Opsius stactogalus* Fieber, 1866 – en cikade, som er ny for landet. Jeg meddelte straks fundet til Lars Trolle, Østermarie, som derefter gik ud og gjorde ligeså, idet han fandt arten d. 10.ix. i Rønne (B, VB 80).

Ifølge F. Ossiannilsson: The Auchenorrhyncha (Homoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark Part 3 (Scandinavian Science Press 1983) er arten kendt fra et par steder i Skåne samt fra Botanisk Have i Oslo. Ellers forekommer den i Mellem- og Sydeuropa, Nordafrika, Mellemøsten og Nordamerika.

*O. stactogalus* er en 4-5 mm lang, smaragdgrøn cikade. Den lever specielt på tamarisk, hvilket ingen andre cikader gør her på lag. Tamarisk findes i Danmark kun som dyrket, og *O. stactogalus* hører således til vor menneskebetingede fauna. Den kan undertiden optræde som et betydeligt skadedyr på sin værtplante.

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