

Uromenus rugosicollis: a West Mediterranean katydid in Denmark

(Orthoptera: Ensifera, Bradyporidae)

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Et opsigtsvækkende fund af løvgræshoppen *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839) i Danmark.

Ultimo september 2003 blev en voksen han af løvgræshoppen *Uromenus rugosicollis* fundet i en have i Haslev på Sjælland. Arten er varmekrævende og findes normalt i det vestlige Europa fra Middelhavskysten og til det vestlige Frankrig. Eftersom arten er kortvinget, må det isolerede danske fund skyldes en tilfældig indslæbning, sandsynligvis af æg, som hunnen indbærer i tørre plantestængler. Det bør dog undersøges, om arten har etableret sig i Danmark.

The first collecting of *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839) for Denmark is reported. This is a brachypterous Ensifera distributed in western and southern France and in eastern Cataluña in Spain. Furthermore it is thermophilous and lives in plains and on hills. Because the species is flightless, it can only have reached the site in a country so far from its natural homerange by passive transportation. It is recommended to survey the collecting site in order to check if it is an exceptional case of introduction, or if a population of this West Mediterranean species has been acclimatized in Denmark.

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Introduction

During my last visit to the Zoological Museum of Copenhagen University in February 2004, Dr. Thomas Simonsen from the Entomological Department kindly offered me a handsome katydid found alive in a garden of a private house in Haslev, Denmark in September 2003 for examination.

The specimen was identified as an adult male of *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839) normally found in the western Mediterranean and not listed in the Danish checklist for Orthoptera (Nielsen, 2000).

Uromenus rugosicollis (Serville, 1839)

The genus *Uromenus* Bolivar, 1878 includes about 20 brachypterous species resembling in their general appearance the more widely distributed genus *Ephippiger* Berthold, 1927.

U. rugosicollis (Fig. 1) is a species of rather large size, it has a strongly saddle shaped pronotum with two lateral carinae characteristic of the genus. This species is easily distinguishable from congeneric ones for the male epiproct, the male cerci, and the unarmed and strongly downward curved titillators (Fig. 2). The identification of females is possible by the 7th sternum with two lateral humps. The color is variable olive green

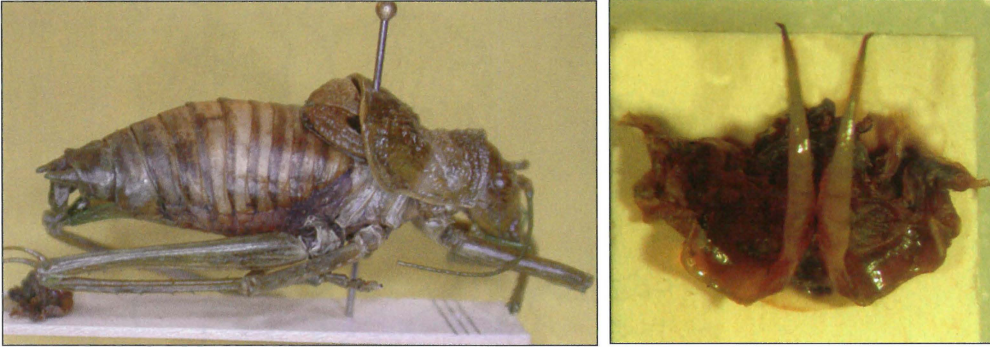


Fig. 1. *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839), Examined material: 1♂, Haslev, Sealand, Denmark, 26.IX.2003, legit B. Larsen.

Han af Uromenus rugosicollis (Serville, 1839) indsamlet i Danmark i september 2003.

Fig. 2. Titillators of *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839).

Titillatorer hos Uromenus rugosicollis (Serville, 1839) indsamlet i Danmark.

but, like many other Ensifera, also more yellowish individuals can be found. The song of this species is produced mostly during the evening and the night and consists of long series of single chirps (Ragge & Reynolds, 1998). It is a thermophilous element that lives on plains and hills, and is rarely found at altitudes higher than 1000m (Voisin, 2003), and its known distribution (Fig. 3) covers the West and South France (Voisin, 2003), and Eastern Cataluña in Spain (Harz, 1969). There are no records of geographically intermediate populations of the species, and the highly disjunct record of a single *U. rugosicollis* in Denmark cannot be unambiguously resolved. The most likely scenario is that the specimen has been accidentally introduced perhaps by hiding among cargo brought up from southern Europe. Females of this species deposit their eggs in dry stems of herbs, and it is possible that it has arrived with fresh herbs collected directly in the field around the natural homorange. However, during the recent years, a natural expansion northward of *Uromenus rugosicollis* and another thermophilous Orthoptera, *Gryllus bimaculatus* De Geer, 1773 has been observed (Herbrecht, 1998; Fontana et al., 2004). Although a natural acclimatization to the colder climate in Denmark is less likely, the locality in Haslev should be surveyed during summer and autumn in order to see if there is a viable population.

Acknowledgements

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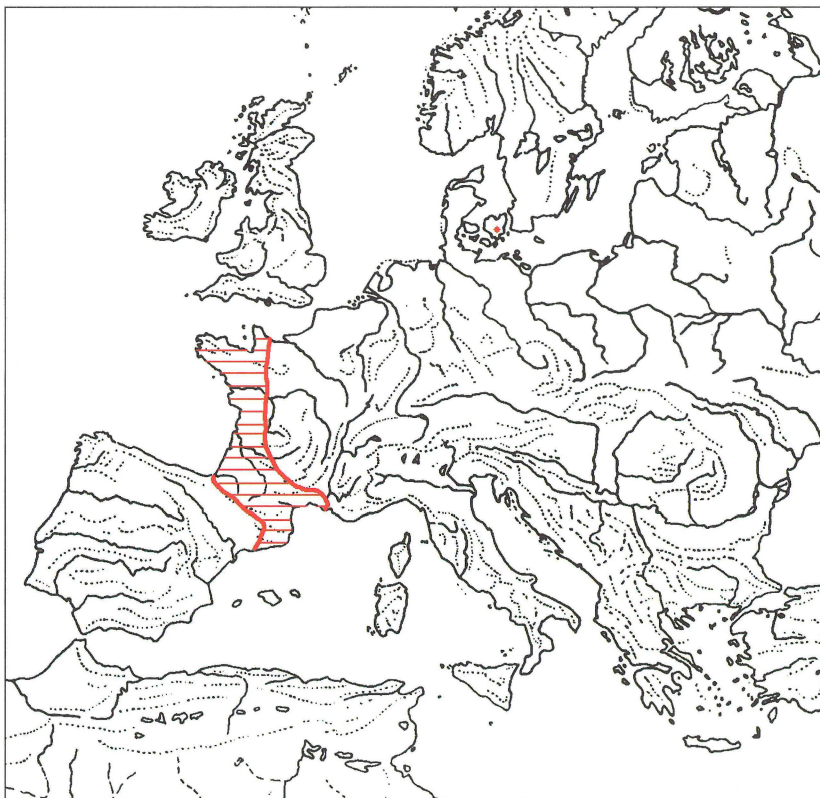


Fig. 3. Known distribution of *Uromenus rugosicollis* (Serville, 1839).
Udbredelsen af Uromenus rugosicollis (Serville, 1839) med angivelse af det danske fund.

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