

NORTHERN RECORDS OF *MICROBISIUM BRUNNEUM*
(PSEUDOSCORPIONIDA, NEOBISIIDAE)
FROM EASTERN CANADA

The range of pseudoscorpion species in Canada is poorly known (e.g., Hoff 1958; Dondale 1979; Sharkey 1987). When collecting invertebrates with pitfall traps and by sieving *Sphagnum* moss in bogs in eastern parts of Canada, 1978 and 1985, the senior author captured the pseudoscorpion *Microbisium brunneum* (Hagen) both in the boreal forest zone and in northern forestline, forest tundra, areas.

M. brunneum was found in samples of *Sphagnum* moss at the following sites in eastern Canada:

1. Ontario; Copetown (43°14'N, 80°04'W), Summit Hill muskeg, 11 July-26 September 1978, 2 exx.

2. Quebec; Parc Jacques Cartier, bog at Lac Barette (47°27'N, 71°15'W), 18 July-14 September 1985, 3 exx.
3. Quebec; Schefferville (54°50'N, 66°50'W), swamp, 21 July 1978, 1 ex.
4. Quebec; Schefferville, open *Sphagnum* bog, 22 July 1978, 1 ex.
5. Quebec; Kuujjuarapik (Poste-de-la-Baleine) (55°15'N, 77°50'W), swamp, 9 July - 29 August 1985, 1 ex.
6. Quebec; Kuujjuarapik, palsa bog, 5-28 August 1985, 1 ex.

It is worth mentioning that *M. brunneum* is the only pseudoscorpion species found at the bogs studied and mentioned above. The habitat fits with the previous data about the ecology of the species: occurring on bogs (Hoff 1946; Sharkey 1987).

According to Hoff (1946), *M. brunneum* has a wide geographical range in eastern Canada and the northern United States. However, no records from eastern Canada (Ontario, Quebec or the Maritime provinces) were included in the list of North American pseudoscorpions by Hoff (1958). Three records have been published for *M. brunneum* in eastern Canada. Nelson (1984) mentioned the presence of the species in Ontario and Quebec, and Sharkey (1987) in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia. Kaisila (1964) wrote in his paper on pseudoscorpions collected from Newfoundland in 1949: "*Microbisium* sp. (spp.?). These, 11 samples in all, constituted the bulk of the material. Finds were made in all parts of the island". This material, sent to J. C. Chamberlin (Kaisila 1964), probably included *M. brunneum*. In addition, Hoff (1958) listed *M. brunneum* just at the forestline area in Churchill, northern Manitoba (about 59°N), based on the report by McClure (1943) as "near *M. brunneum*".

Besides those specimens collected by the senior author the most northern *M. brunneum* in the Canadian National Collection was taken 40 miles west of St. John's, Newfoundland ex muskeg at about 47°50'N. The present samples of *M. brunneum* from Schefferville and Kuujjuarapik are clearly the northernmost known in the eastern part of Canada. Although the latitude of these sites is more southern than that of Churchill, the environmental conditions are comparable: all these three areas are situated in the forestline region or forest tundra (see e.g., Danks 1981).

M. brunneum is not the pseudoscorpion with the most northern distribution in North America. An undescribed species of *Wyochernes* (presently being described by W. B. Muchmore) was discovered by V. Behan-Pelletier in the Yukon Territory at the following locality: British Mountains, 350 m, Sheep Creek, 69°10'N, 140°18'W, 23 June 1984, collected under stones on fine gravel about 1 m from edge of creek.

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Seppo Koponen, Zoological Museum, University of Turku, SF-20500 Turku, Finland, and **Michael J. Sharkey**, Biosystematics Research Centre, Agriculture Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6, Canada.

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