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SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Pleroneura coniferarum* (Hartig, 1837) (Hymenoptera, Symphyta, Xyelidae) – a sawfly species new for the Polish fauna**

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ABSTRACT

The paper provides the information about *Pleroneura coniferarum* (Hartig) of the family Xyelidae newly recorded from Poland: a female of this species has been collected in the vicinities of Nowy Sącz. Diagnostic characters of both central-European representatives of the genus *Pleroneura* Konow are summarized in the table at the end of the work.

Keywords: Hymenoptera, Symphyta, sawfly, Xyelidae, *Pleroneura coniferarum*, Poland, faunistic data

1. INTRODUCTION

The family Xyelidae is represented in the fauna of Poland by three species (Huflejt 1997; Skibińska & Chudzicka 2004). Here belong small or very small insects, usually difficult to find and usually captured in various traps. All of them develop in coniferous trees, where imagines oviposit into swollen or ripening buds and mature larvae drop down to winter in litter or soil.

Two species of the genus *Pleroneura* Konow occur in central Europe, both developing in firs (*Abies* spp.). Only *P. dahlii* (Hartig) had been hitherto recorded from Poland (Huflejt 1997; Skibińska & Chudzicka 2006, Piotrowski *et al.* 2006); Blank (2002) quotes Konow's (1897) data from „West-Beskiden” as referring to *P. coniferarum* (Hartig), but this is a misinterpretation (repeated later also by Roller & Haris (2008) in their monograph of Symphyta of the Carpathian Basin): Konow (1897) **clearly** writes about a single specimen of related species, *P. dahlii*, from Western Beskids. By the way, this geographical term refers to the wide mountain range extending on both sides of the border separating Poland from Czech Rep. and Slovakia, so it is uncertain in which country the respective locality lies.

Below we provide information on the second species of the genus *Pleroneura* – *Pleroneura coniferarum* – found in our country.

2. MATERIAL

- „Poland, Beskid Sądecki, Librantowa near Nowy Sącz, UTM: DA80, 49°39'53.1”N, 20°45'54.9”E, 429 m. a. s. l., 03.V.2013, 1♀, in flight, leg. J. Borowski”.

The collected specimen is preserved in the collection of the first author (JB), deposited in the Department of the Forest Protection and Ecology SGGW in Rogów, Poland.

3. RESULTS

The illustrated (Fig. 2) specimen of *P. coniferarum* has been collected in sunny day in an isolated clump of *ca.* 20 years old firs and spruces. It is a first true record on the occurrence of this species in Poland. Outside the Poland, this West Palaearctic species is also known from mountainous areas of Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Croatia, France, Belgium, Luxemburg, Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, Ukraine and Greece (Blank 2002; Taeger *et al.* 2006; Taeger *et al.* 2010).



Fig. 1. *Pleroneura dahlii* (Hartig), female collected in the Świętokrzyski National Park, Poland (leg. L. Buchholz) - dorsal view.



Fig. 2. *Pleroneura coniferarum* (Hartig), female collected in the vicinities of Nowy Sącz - dorsal view.

Both central-European species are very similar morphologically, almost identical in size, reliably differing mainly in the colouration of antennae, legs, abdominal segments, and also dimness of anterior wings – these characters have been compared in the table below.

<i>Pleroneura dahlii</i> (Hartig, 1837) (Fig. 1)	<i>Pleroneura coniferarum</i> (Hartig, 1837) (Fig. 2)
<u>colouration of 3 basal antennomeres</u> - dark, usually black or blackish-brown	<u>colouration of 3 basal antennomeres</u> - pale, usually yellowish- or reddish-brown
<u>colouration of legs</u> - coxae, trochanters and femora brown, tibiae and tarsi yellowish-brown	<u>colouration of legs</u> - coxae, trochanters and femora black with but distalmost ends of femora reddish-brown; tibiae and tarsi pale, yellowish- or reddish-brown
<u>colouration of abdominal segments</u> - abdomen unicolorous black, chestnut-black or blackish-brown	<u>colouration of abdominal segments</u> - hind margins of sternites, sides of last-but-one tergite and entire last segment yellow or yellowish-brown
<u>colouration of anterior wings</u> strongly dimmed brownish; mediocubital cell often transversely lightened	<u>colouration of anterior wings</u> uniformly slightly dimmed

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