

**FIRST RECORD OF HOPLOTHIRIPS CORTICIS (DEGEER, 1773)  
(THYSANOPTERA, PHLAEOTHIRIPIDAE) IN SLOVAKIA**

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**ABSTRACT.** This short communication presents the first record of *Hoplothrips corticis* (DeGeer, 1773) in Slovakia. The species was found in Martinský les wood, which is a rare isolated refuge of natural oak stands (*Aceri tatarici-Quercetum*, Zólyomi 1957), situated in hills close to the town of Senec (SW Slovakia). The material was collected using a tree photoelector.

**KEY WORDS:** Thysanoptera, bark-dwelling, Martinský les forest, trees, photoelector.

Corticicolous (bark-dwelling) thrips belong among the most specific species. Although there is only a little known from their biology, it might be supposed that they are often fungivores (PELIKÁN 1950). It is even possible that they help some wood-destroying fungi to expand (KOBRO, 2001). In forestry they might be used as indicators (of the beginning of the wood rooting stage) of stage when the wood starts rooting. (PELIKÁN 1950). Some species may use the bark for overwintering as well as a refuge during unsuitable period (LEWIS, 1973) what actually corresponds with their generally declared thigmotaxy.

Some sporadic data on bark-dwelling thrips in Slovakia were published within the more complex research (e.g. VIDLIČKA, 1987, MAJZLAN et FEDOR, 2003). Several faunistic notes on this matter refer to DUBOVSKÝ et al. (2008), DUBOVSKÝ et MASAROVÍČ (2007), FEDOR et al. (2007).

*Hoplothrips corticis* is a typical bark-dwelling and mycophagous thrips (PELIKÁN 1995) living under bark of various tree species (PELIKÁN, 1957) particularly willows, plums, birches and alders (UZEL, 1895).

This paper refers to the area of Martinský les wood (Figure 1) which is a rare isolated refuge of natural oak wood stands (*Aceri tatarici-Quercetum*, Zólyomi 1957) situated in Trnavská pahorkatina hills.

With its relatively small size of 445.60 ha it is located in the vicinity of Senec (SW Slovakia) (48°16' N, 17°22' E; Databank of the fauna of Slovakia: 7770, 185 m a. s. l) and represents a unique locality with almost all the oak species occurring in Slovakia.

All the specimens were captured in the arboreal photoelector, based on a principle of positive phototaxy and negative geotropism at insects (MAJZLAN et FEDOR, 2003). Traps were constructed according to FEDOR et al. (2007) and exposed at various height levels (1 – 3 m) on selected tree trunks.

The material was collected during the vegetation period 2007 and 2008.

Standard preparatory techniques were used for mounting: specimens were dehydrated in alcohol and clove oil, and mounted on slides in Canada balsam. The material was identified by P. Fedor and W. Sierka and is deposited in the collections of Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.

*Hoplothrips corticis* (DeGeer, 1973)

Material examined: SW Slovakia, Podunajská nížina lowland, Martinský les forest (48°16' N, 17°23' E):

22.VI.2007, 1 ♀, W side of the *Quercus* spp. trunk, 1 m above the ground.

7.VI.2008, 1 ♀ E side of the *Quercus* spp. trunk 1 m above the ground.

12.VIII.2008, 1 ♀ S side of the *Quercus* spp. trunk 1 m above the ground.

3.IX.2008, 1 ♀ S side of *Quercus* spp. trunk 3 m above the ground.

29.IX.2008, 1 ♀ N side of the *Quercus* spp. trunk 1 m above the ground.

*Hoplothrips corticis* is a typical bark-dwelling and mycophagous thrip (PELIKÁN 1995), living in various forests (JENSER 1993, KUCHARCZYK 1999), often on dead branches and logs of *Fagus sylvatica*, *Crataegus monogyna* (JENSER 1999), *Corylus avellana* (JENSER et al., 2005) and *Populus tremula* (KETTUNEN et al., 2005).

*Hoplothrips corticis* seems to occur gregariously on fungus infected dead log providing support for numerous generations (KOBRO et RAFFOS 2006, KOBRO 2003). It has been recorded in almost all the surrounding countries: Hungary (FABIÁN 1938) the Czech Republic (PELIKÁN 1945) and Poland (KUCHARCZYK 1999).

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Figure 1: Study area (FOTO: MASAROVIC 2009)

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