

**FIRST RECORD OF *Cryptops parisi* Brolemann, 1920  
(CHILOPODA: SCOLOPENDROMORPHA: CRYPTOPIDAE)  
IN SERBIA**

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**ABSTRACT.** We report on the discovery of *Cryptops parisi* Brolemann, a new species for the centipede fauna of Serbia. Diagnostic features, general distribution, chorotype, and ecological notes are given. Also a key to the four Serbian species of *Cryptops* is provided.

**Key words:** *Cryptops*, key to species, park forest Košutnjak, Belgrade.

## INTRODUCTION

The order Scolopendromorpha is distributed chiefly in the tropics and subtropics, and includes the largest and most aggressive centipedes with 21, 23, 39 or 43 pairs of legs (EASON, 1964; LEWIS, 1981; CHAGAS-JUNIOR *et al.*, 2008). In Serbia it is represented by two families (Cryptopidae and Scolopendridae), and two genera (*Scolopendra* Linnaeus and *Cryptops* Leach) (MITIĆ, 2001, 2002; MITIĆ & TOMIĆ, 2002). The genus *Cryptops*, generally regarded as taxonomically difficult (LEWIS, 2009), comprises small, blind, active, yellowish to pale brown centipedes with 21 pairs of legs. One such species, *Cryptops parisi* Brolemann, is recorded for the first time from Serbia.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The present paper is based on the literature records critically revised and unpublished records recently collected; also some previously published localities have been checked. The identification was based on the diagnostic characteristics reported by MATIĆ (1972), STOEVIĆ (2002), BARBER (2008), and LEWIS (2009, 2011). For *C. parisi* the following is reported: the scientific name, the complete name of the author and year of publication, order and family, diagnostic features, the general geographic distribution according to ZAPPAROLI (2006), the chorotype according to VIGNA TAGLIANTI *et al.* (1999), and ecological notes. The collection is preserved at the Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ord. SCOLOPENDROMORPHA Pocock, 1895

Fam. CRYPTOPIIDAE Kohlrausch, 1881

*Cryptops* Leach, 1815

*Cryptops parisi* Brolemann, 1920

**Material examined:** Park forest Košutnjak, Belgrade (10 ex, 26. X 2010, leg. B. Mitić and B. Ilić).

**Diagnostic features:** Tibial and tarsal combs of last legs, coxae of last legs, labrum, and anterior border of forcipular coxosternite. Distinguished from *Cryptops croaticus* Verhoeff and *C. anomalans* Newport by T1 sutures, young specimens (tibial and tarsal teeth fewer) can sometimes be quite difficult to distinguish from *C. hortensis* (Donovan).

**General distribution:** Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, European Russia (Transcarpathia); France, Germany, Greece mainland (incl. Ionian Is.), Italy, Ireland, Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, The Netherlands; Near East (N. Turkey); introduced in Britain, Scandinavia, and Newfoundland (Canada).

**Chorotype:** S-European.

**Ecology:** Mixed oak forest under the strong anthropogenic pressure.

### Key to the identification of *Cryptops* species of Serbia:

1. T1 with a conspicuous cruciform structure and head with complete longitudinal sutures. Animal up to 40 mm or longer. .... 2
  - T1 without a cruciform structure, suture on head (if visible) incomplete, generally at least slightly smaller than 40 mm. .... 3
2. (1) Tibiae of last legs with a field of fine, dense setae on their ventral side. .... *C. croaticus* Verhoeff
  - Tibiae of last legs without a field of fine, dense setae. .... *C. anomalans* Newport
3. (1) Paired longitudinal sutures at posterior margin of head. Five teeth in the centre of the labrum. No ventral groove on prefemur of last legs. .... *C. parisi* Brolemann
  - No such sutures at posterior margin of head, only anterior ones. Three teeth in the centre of the labrum. Distinct ventral groove on prefemur of last legs. .... *C. hortensis* (Donovan)

Little information is still available on the centipede fauna of Serbia (including Kosovo and Metohija). It comprises 52 species (1 Scutigermorpha, 27 Lithobiomorpha, 5 Scolopendromorpha, 19 Geophilomorpha) (MITIĆ, unpublished data).

Of the four *Cryptops* species recorded from Serbia, *C. anomalans* is the most widespread (Fig. 1). It is common in woodland under bark and under stones, in leaf litter and decayed timber, as well as in grassland, moorland, and caves. There is also a distinct synanthropic element in its distribution in Serbia. On the other hand, *C. croaticus*, *C. hortensis*, and *C. parisi* have been recorded once, or only in a few occasions, so the insufficiency of faunistic information does not allow any conclusions. This problem will be solvable only after accumulating new data.

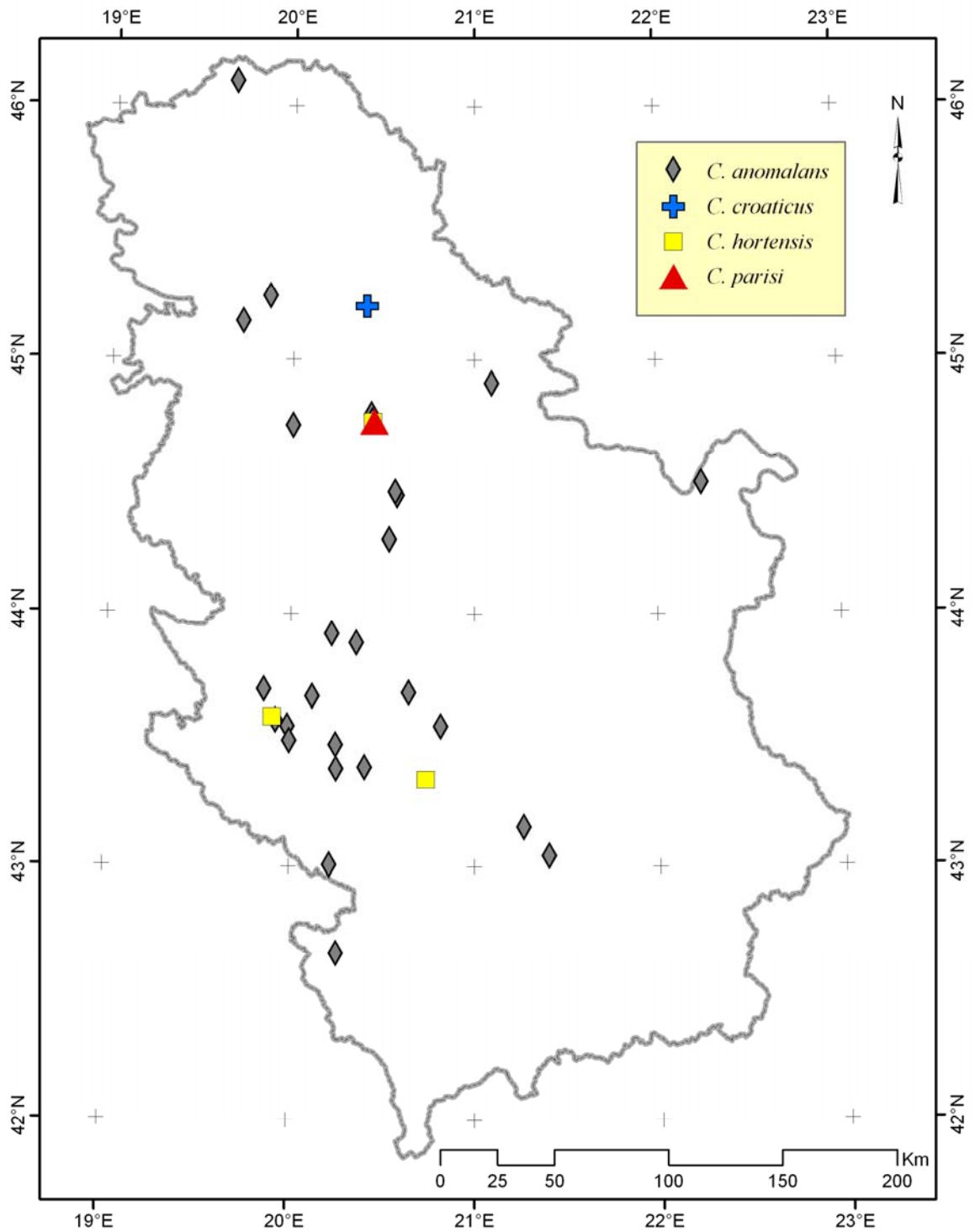


Fig. 1. - Serbian localities of *C. anomalans*, *C. croaticus*, *C. hortensis*, and *C. parisi* findings.

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