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Oxychilus /Ortizius/ translucidus /MORTILLET 1854/ also in Israel - Oxychilus /Ortizius translucidus /MORTILLET 1854/ előfordulása Izraelben

An investigation of the malacofauna of a heated greenhouse of the Department of Botany, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel on 5 June 1975 yielded to my surprise many specimens of an unknown Oxychilus species. Visits to the same hothouse in the following years resulted in the find of numerous additional specimens. They were especially encountered under flower-pots at moist places.

On 12 February 1979 similar snails were intercepted in small numbers on Conifer saplings brought to Kibbutz Netzer Sereni from a treenursery belonging to the Botanical Garden of the Hebrew University.

Several specimens sent to Prof. A. RIEDEL (Warszawa) were identified on basis of their anatomy as belonging to Oxychilus (Ortizius) translucidus (MORTILLET 1854) = O. komarowi (O. BOETTGER 1881), a highly synanthropic species widely distributed in Northern Turkey, the Caucasus and Northern Iran (RIEDEL, 1964, 1966 and 1970).

Outside this most probably natural area of distribution O. translucidus has been found in Botanical Gardens in Warszawa, Poland (RIEDEL, 1964); Vácrátót, Hungary (PINTÉR & PODANI, 1979); Plovdiv, Sofia and Varna, Bulgaria (RIEDEL, 1964 and in litt.), while its occurrence in parks in Istanbul and Izmir, Turkey (RIEDEL, 1970) seems also to be due to introduction.

How O. translucidus reached the premises of the Department of Botany in Jerusalem is not known. However, botanists of the University are frequently visiting Turkey, therefore we may assume that O. translucidus has been introduced by means of snail infected botanical material.

Its intercession in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni seems to indicate a possibility that we may expect this species still at other places in Israel.

I thank Prof. A. RIEDEL (Warszawa) for the identification of the material.

Summary

Oxychilus (Ortizius) translucidus is reported here for the first time from Israel. It reached most possibly the Botanical Gardens and Hothouses of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem by means of snail infected botanical material from Turkey.

Összefoglalás

Oxychilus (Ortizius) translucidus első előfordulását ész-lelték Izraelben. Valószínűnek látszik, hogy Törökországból származó botanikai anyaggal kerültek a csigák a jeruzsálemi Héber Egyetem botanikus kertjébe és melegházaiba.

References

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