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A EUROPEAN HARVESTMAN IN NORTH AMERICA (PHALANGIDA, PHALANGIIDAE)¹

Ross T. Bell²

ABSTRACT: The first record of the European harvestman, *Oligolophus tridens* Koch is recorded from North American in northwestern Vermont. A general description of the phalangid is given which will distinguish it from two other common northeastern species, *Odiellus pictus* (Wood) and *Mitopus morio* Fab.

DESCRIPTORS: A European Harvestman in North America (Phalangida, Phalangiidae)

I have long sought to identify a local species of phalangid which is not in the most detailed revision of the group for northeastern U.S. (Bishop, 1949). Dr. Vladimir Silhavy, of Trebic, Czechoslovakia has very kindly determined it as *Oligolophus tridens* Koch. In Bishop (1949) it will trace to the subfamily Oligolophinae, since the basal segment of the chelicera has a spiniform process on the ventral side. It agrees with the common northeastern *Odiellus pictus* (Wood) in having three strong spines on the anterior margin of the carapace but it lacks the femoral spines on the pedipalp which characterize the latter species. The other northeastern Oligolophine, *Mitopus morio* Fab. is a high montane species which lacks both the 3 anterior marginal spines and the femoral spines.

Large immatures of this species are mostly pale dull yellow with small scattered brown spots. They coalesce at maturity to form a vitta with indefinite lateral borders. In the male, the vitta is usually interrupted on the first and second abdominal segments. The male is more narrowed posteriorly than is the female, and the eyes are somewhat larger and more separated.

Both sexes have well developed dorsal spines on the coxae with one on the anterior face of the fourth coxae being especially prominent. The female has prominent mesal lobes on the pedipalpi, but these are lacking in the male.

This is the first record of the species from North America, although unidentified immature *Oligolophus* were reported from Newfoundland by Hackman (1956). *Oligolophus tridens* is found in areas of disturbed soil, such as gardens, pastures, and floodplains. It has been caught at Burlington, Colchester, Isle La Motte, and on the shores of the Winooski River opposite to Bolton. All these localities are in northwestern Vermont. The species seems to be strictly nocturnal, hiding under dense bushes, in tall grass, or under driftwood by day. It is caught frequently in pitfall traps.

REFERENCES

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² Department of Zoology, University of Vermont, Marsh Life Science Building, Burlington, VT. 05401.