



***Thaumatoniscellus spelunca* n. sp. (Isopoda: Oniscidea: Trichoniscidae), a new troglobitic oniscid species from Croatia**

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Abstract

Thaumatoniscellus spelunca n. sp. is described from a pit on Mt Učka in Istria, Croatia. This is the second species of the genus *Thaumatoniscellus* Tabacaru, 1973 of the monotypic subfamily Thaumatoniscellinae. The type species, *Thaumatoniscellus orghidani* Tabacaru, 1973, is only known from a single locality in southwestern Romania. A revised diagnosis of the genus is given and the geographic distribution of the two species discussed.

Key words: Thaumatoniscellinae, *Thaumatoniscellus*, new species, Istria, Croatia

Introduction

As a result of bio-speleological research carried out by the Croatian Biospeleological Society in Istria, Croatia, a new species of troglobitic isopod has been discovered. The new species belongs to the little known monotypic genus *Thaumatoniscellus* Tabacaru, 1973, of the monotypic subfamily Thaumatoniscellinae, previously known only from a single locality in Romania.

The genus *Thaumatoniscellus* was established by Tabacaru (1973) for the species *Thaumatoniscellus orghidani* Tabacaru, 1973, described from a lithoclase near a cave at Topolnica in Oltenia, southwest Romania. Tabacaru (1973) also established a separate tribe Thaumatoniscellini for the new genus and later (Tabacaru 1993), in a study on the family Trichoniscidae, raised this tribe to the rank of a separate subfamily, i.e. the Thaumatoniscellinae Tabacaru, 1993. This is the third subfamily of the family Trichoniscidae G.O. Sars, 1899, the others being the nominotypical Trichoniscinae and the Haplophthalminae Verhoeff, 1908.

The new species of the genus *Thaumatoniscellus* described in this paper was collected from a small pit on Mt Učka in the northeastern part of Istria, Croatia.

The material is deposited in the Croatian Biospeleological Society Collection (CBSSC), hosted by the Croatian Natural History Museum (CNHM) in Zagreb and at the Department of Biology and Ecology (DBE), Novi Sad, Serbia.

Taxonomy

***Thaumatoniscellus* Tabacaru, 1973**

Type species, *Thaumatoniscellus orghidani* Tabacaru, 1973

Diagnosis emended. Small blind trichoniscid with stout body. Dorsum ornamented with rounded tubercles on