

## A new species of Cyphophthalmi (Arachnida, Opiliones, Sironidae) from Eastern Slovenia

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### Abstract

A new species of Cyphophthalmi belonging to the Laurasian family Sironidae is described and illustrated on the basis of external anatomy and genitalia. *Siro crassus* **sp. n.**, known from leaf litter from two beech forest localities in Eastern Slovenia, is a relatively large (2.2–2.6 mm in length), long-legged epigeal species, in which the patella of leg IV surpasses the end of the body. The new species resembles the European *Siro rubens* Latreille, 1804 and *S. valleorum* Chemini, 1990 in the projecting female rear end, but differs from these species, among other features, in having ornamented metatarsi on all four pairs of walking legs.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, *Siro*, Alps, Europe

### Introduction

The family Sironidae includes small (1.0–2.6 mm in length) harvestmen which superficially resemble mites and live cryptically in leaf litter, and in endogean and hypogean habitats across Laurasia (Shear 1980; Juberthie 1988; Giribet 2000). From the 32 species and subspecies described to date (according to the online catalogue by Giribet, consulted on 21 August 2006: <http://collections.oeb.harvard.edu/Invertebrate/Cyphophthalmi/species.cfm>), those of the Balkan and neighboring areas have recently been placed in the resurrected genus *Cyphophthalmus* Joseph, 1868 (Boyer *et al.* 2005). The Balkan Peninsula is one of the biodiversity centers for sironids, hosting more than a dozen described species (Kratohvíl 1937, 1940, 1958; Rafalski 1958; Hadšič 1973a,b; Staręga 1976; Juberthie 1991; Mitov 1994; Giribet 2000; Boyer *et al.* 2005). In addition, a considerable number of undescribed species occur in the area (Karaman *et al.* 1994; Boyer