



The genus *Dolichopoda* in Greece. A description of new species from the Ionian Regions and Peloponnisos (Orthoptera, Rhaphidophoridae)

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Abstract

Description of five new *Dolichopoda* species from the Ionian area of Western Greece together with a description of the female for *D. pavesii* from Kefalonia island and the male of *D. dalensi* from North-eastern Peloponnisos are reported. Considering the other 6 species already documented in the area (including the North of the Peloponnisos), there is now a total of 11 recorded species of *Dolichopoda* which currently inhabit the underground areas of this zone. These new data, therefore, help better define the already high diversity of the genus in the Hellenic region (25 species in all) reinforcing the hypothesis that there was a central area of dispersion of the *Dolichopoda* in the ancient Aegean plate.

Key words: cave cricket, *Dolichopoda*, new species, Greece

Introduction

The family Rhaphidophoridae Walker, F., 1871 is divided into nine subfamilies (Gorochov 2001), and is considered by many authors to be as phylogenetically old both for their morphology and their wide, discontinuous, geographic distribution across the temperate areas of the Boreal and Austral hemispheres (Di Russo & Sbordoni 1998).

Members of the subfamily Dolichopodainae Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1888 are restricted to the Northern hemisphere, with several species belonging to the genera *Dolichopoda* Bolivar, I., 1880 which are found in caves of Europe and Asia Minor. In particular, 37 species from the genus *Dolichopoda* have been described (Heller *et al.* 1998, Otte 2000). This genus has its highest species richness in Southern and South-Eastern Europe (Mediterranean basin, Apennines, Balkan and Peloponnisos). In particular, 20 of the known species known have been reported in for caves in continental and insular Greece (Boudou-Saltet 1983; Willemse 1984) (Tab. 1). Among these, only 4 species have been reported for the western area of Greece (Ionian regions) (i.e. *D. graeca* of Perama cave, Ipiros; *D. steriotisi* of Corfù island; *D. patrizii* of Petalas island; *D. pavesii* of Kefalonia island) and two species from the Northern Peloponnisos (*D. matsakisi* of the Tom Limnon cave near Kalavrita and *D. dalensi* from Kephaloivrissi cave in Argolis).

In this paper, we present the description of 5 new *Dolichopoda* species from the Ionian area of Western Greece together with a description of the female for *D. pavesii* from Kefalonia island and the male of *D. dalensi* from North-eastern Peloponnisos.