Opiliones new to Finland and an updated checklist

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Finnish Opiliones have been studied as a part of the research programme of deficiently known and threatened forest species (PUTTE) since 2012. During the project, several species new to Finland have been found and some errors in former checklists (Heinäjoki 1944, Stol 2007) discovered. Prior to the project, 12 Opiliones species were reported from Finland, the number now being 15. Here we present additions and changes with the updated checklist (Table 1.).

Additions to Finnish Opiliones fauna

Four Opiliones species, *Lacinius dentiger* (C. L. Koch, 1848), *Oligolophus hanseni* (Kraepelin, 1896), *Opilio canestrinii* (Thorell, 1876) and *Opilio saxatilis* C. L. Koch, 1839, have been observed for the first time in Finland. All these species are widespread in central Europe, *Opilio canestrinii* and *Opilio saxatilis* occur also in Sweden, *Oligolophus hanseni* in Sweden and Norway. *Opilio canestrinii* is common in Central Europe, often found in parks, gardens and on walls, but can also be found in deciduous forests. *Opilio saxatilis* is a thermophilic species, found in grasslands, on dunes and on walls. *Oligolophus hanseni* is found on tree trunks, walls and leaf litter in forests and gardens. *Lacinius dentiger* is found in sparse and open forests, parklands and gardens.

*Lacinius dentiger*

*Oligolophus hanseni*
Fig. 1. *Lacinius dentiger* (male). Olive green and gray pigmentation, highly denticulated dorsally. Photo: Annika Uddström.

Fig. 2. *Oligolophus hansenii* (female). Differs from *O. tridens* by more dense denticulation between the trident and the ocularium. Often additional dents on the both sides of the trident (five in a row). The saddle pattern is characteristically bordered. Photo: Veikko Rinne.

Fig. 3. *Opilio canestrinii* (male). Reddish-brown to greenish brown with light and short transversal lines, often at least some orange pigmentation. Males often strikingly coloured. Photo: Veikko Rinne.

Fig. 4. *Opilio saxatilis* (male). Similar to *O. parietinus*, but has more apparent longitudinal stripe on dorsum. Femur of the first leg pair is short and thickest in the middle part. Photo: Timo Pajunen.
**Opilio canestrinii**

**Opilio saxatilis**

**Changes to the checklist due to misidentifications**

*Leiobunum tisciae* Avram, 1968 has been systematically misidentified as *Leiobunum rupestre* (Herbst, 1799). Lars Friman was the first to notice the misidentification and he contacted us. All *Leiobunum* specimens we have checked so far have turned out *Leiobunum tisciae* (from the collections of the Zoological Museum of Finnish Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki, of the Zoological Museum, University of Turku, and our own collections from Åland and southern coast of Finland). It seems very unlikely that *Leiobunum rupestre* occurs in Finland.

Martta Heinäjoki reported *Platybunus bucephalus* (C. L. Koch, 1835) from Finland (Heinäjoki 1944). Later there have been some doubts on its occurrence in Finland (Stol 2007). Based on the collections of the Zoological Museum of Natural History, University of Helsinki and of the Zoological Museum, University of Turku, we suggest *Platybunus bucephalus* does not occur in Finland. All specimens we have checked, formerly identified as *Platybunus bucephalus*, have turned out juvenile *Rilaena triangularis* (Herbst, 1799). We have not been able to find any of the adult specimens Heinäjoki (1944) and Hippa (1975) reported. According to Martens (1978), *Platybunus bucephalus* occurs in Central and Southern Europe and the species has not been reported from other Nordic countries (Stol 2007).

### References


