

# *Anthrenochernes stellae* Lohmander, 1939 (Pseudoscorpiones, Chernetidae) new to Norway

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The first Norwegian records of *Anthrenochernes stellae* Lohmander, 1939 are reported from Vestfold county in hollow aspen trees. An unpublished Danish record is also given, as well as notes on associated species, ecology and distribution in Europe.

Key words: *Anthrenochernes stellae*, new records, Norway, Denmark.

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## Introduction

The last survey of Norwegian pseudoscorpions is that of Stol (2006), reporting 15 species in all. Since then two more species have been recorded from the country: *Roncus lubricus* (L. Koch, 1873) and *Microbisium suecicum* Lohmander, 1939 (Henriksen & Hilmo 2015). One new species is reported below.

## Material and methods

In March 2015 the senior author had an occasional chance to inspect a newly felled hollow aspen tree (*Populus tremula*) at Tjøme (Vestfold county) and discovered *Anthrenochernes stellae* Lohmander, 1939 (Figure 1) with no previous Norwegian record. A single specimen was also found in a dead hollow aspen about 5 km away from the first locality.

## Records

The Norwegian records are: **VE**, Tjøme: Mågerø (59.14898°N, 10.453950°E), 16.III.2015, moss (probably nest material from squirrel) in old woodpecker hole in large aspen (75 cm diameter at chest height) about 6 m above ground, ant colony in the root (*Lasius brunneus* (Latreille, 1798)), 4 specimens, leg. A. Fjellberg; **VE**: Tjøme: Treidene (59.08343°N, 10.40127°E), 20.III.2015, litter in dead hollow aspen (small tree) with ants (*Lasius brunneus*), 1 specimen, leg. A. Fjellberg.

The new Danish record is **NEJ**, Lille Vildmose, Tofte Forest, Bøgebakken (56.84481°N, 10.19975°E), 30.IX.2010, in hollow branch broken off a storm toppled beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), 1♂2♀♀, leg. J. Pedersen.

## Discussion

*Anthrenochernes stellae* is a member of Chernetidae, a family of eyeless pseudoscorpions with divided tergites. The species is readily



**FIGURE 1.** *Anthrenochernes stellae*, Lohmander, 1939, live specimen from Norway. Photo: J. Lissner.



**FIGURE 2.** *Anthrenochernes stellae*, Lohmander, 1939, **A.** right claw with curved fingers (scale bar = 0.2 mm). **B.** tarsus of left hind leg with long trochobothrium (arrow). Photo: J. Lissner.

identified by the strongly curved fingers of the pedipalp. The gap between the fingers almost equals the diameter of a finger (Figure 2A). Also there is a very strong dorsal trichobothrium on

tarsus IV, situated one third away from the basal joint (Figure 2B).

The species is considered rare in most of its distributional area, covering Poland, Czech Republic, Latvia, Germany and Scandinavia. It is redlisted in Sweden (NT) where it is recorded north to about 61°N, and with most records in eastern parts of the country. In Denmark it was only known from Zealand until 2007 (Holmen & Scharff 2008). Since then new records have been made at Frijsenborg, Central Jutland and at Lille Vildmose, Northern Jutland (see above). The habitat of the species is mainly old growth hardwood forests, where it lives in hollow trees of oak, beech, linden and aspen, often associated with birds' nests and ants. Observations in Sweden indicate that flying insects disperse specimens, in particular Diptera (ArtDatabanken 2015).

*A. stellae* is often found in association with other redlisted species. The sample from Mågerø revealed the pseudoscorpions *Dinocheirus panzeri* (C.L. Koch, 1837) and *Pselaphochernes scorpoides* (Hermann, 1804) and the beetle *Nemadus colonoides* (Kraatz, 1851) (NT). At the Treidene locality the species was associated with *D. panzeri*. At Frijsenborg Dyrehave it lives with the rare linyphiid spider *Midia midas* (Simon, 1884), as well as with the pseudoscorpions *Allochernes wideri* (C.L. Koch, 1843), *Chernes cimicoides* (Fabricius, 1793), and *D. panzeri*.

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