

AN EARLIER RECORD OF THE SLUG *SELENOCHLAMYS* *YSBRYDA* ROWSON & SYMONDSON, FROM BRECON, UK

Recently Rowson & Symondson (2008) reported the occurrence of a population of *Selenochlamys ysbryda* from a garden in Cardiff, South Wales. This carnivorous slug was previously undescribed but congeners occur in the western Caucasus and adjacent parts of Turkey, so a recent introduction into the UK seems most likely. Here we report collecting a specimen on 29th December 2004, almost three years earlier than the discovery in Cardiff. The locality was the churchyard of Brecon Cathedral, Powys (51° 57' 06" N, 3° 23' 33" W), about 55 km NNW of the original site. The slug was found by searching under wood and stones in an area of mown grass verging towards bare ground, with old gravestones and an ivy-covered wall, and overshadowed by trees; the site did not appear subject to much horticultural activity. At the time we searched explicitly for further specimens, but without success.

Since information about the "Ghost Slug" was publicised, records have been received from several sites elsewhere in South Wales (B. Rowson, pers. com.). Our record currently remains the earliest, although a specimen had been photographed in Caerphilly, South Wales, in October 2006, also prior to the Cardiff discovery (Davies, 2006). There is a parallel with the discovery of another alien slug in Europe, *Boettgerilla pal-lens* Simroth, also thought to originate in the Caucasus. Although the original publication of its occurrence in Europe was based on Polish material first collected in 1956 (Wiktor, 1959),

subsequently a preserved specimen collected in 1949 in West Germany, hitherto identified as a juvenile *Milax*, proved to be this species (Schmid, 1966). In our case we casually supposed that the specimen was a juvenile and albino *Testacella* that had lost its shell. We attempted to rear it to maturity, but when it died two months later the gut and gonad had everted through the anus, discouraging us from further investigation.

The specimen is sexually mature and has catalogue number p15967 in the Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde Görlitz.

ROWSON B & SYMONDSON WOC 2008 *Selenochlamys ysbryda* sp. nov. from Wales, UK: a *Testacella*-like slug new to Western Europe (Stylommatophora: Trigonochlamyidae). *Journal of Conchology* 39: 537–552.

DAVIES K 2006 <http://petsnails.proboards3.com/index.cgi?board=identification&action=display&thread=1071>. Retrieved 16 Oct. 2008.

WIKTOR A 1959 *Boettgerilla vermiformis* n. sp. (Mollusca, Pulmonata) *Communication of the Poznań Society of Friends of Science* 4: 1–2.

SCHMID G 1966 Weitere Funde von *Boettgerilla vermiformis*. *Mitteilungen der deutschen Malakozoologischen Gesellschaft* 1: 131–136.

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