

The first record of *Sphaerium nucleus* (Bivalvia) in Slovakia

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Sphaerium nucleus (Studer, 1820) was described originally as a valid species, but later considered only a morphological form “*nucleus*” of *Sphaerium corneum* (L., 1758), typical for small stagnant waters (CLESSIN, 1884, 1887; EHRMANN, 1956; LOŽEK, 1956; ZILCH & JAECKEL, 1962; PIECHOCKI, 1993). It is not included in the Limnofauna Europaea (WILLMANN & PIEPER, 1978), Mollusca of the Carpathian basin (SOÓS, 1943) and Slovakia (LISICKÝ, 1991; ČEJKA & ELEXOVÁ, 2003). KORNIUSHIN (2001), who studied its morphology and ecology, confirmed that it can be considered to be a good species.

Although there are not published data on this taxon from Slovakia, it is included in the database of Fauna Europaea for the Slovak fauna (ARAUJO, 2005). This information is erroneous or based on a hypothetical presumption (confirmed by T. ČEJKA in litt.).

Material examined: S Slovakia, Vyšná Pokoradz village (48°25'32" N; 20°01'34" E), a fen marsh above the village (the Revúcka vrchovina Hills), altitude 420 m a.s.l. The site is situated in a depression about 250 m long, 40 m broad and supplied only by rain water. Typical plants were *Typha latifolia*, *Glyceria* sp., *Sphagnum* sp., Pteridophyta gen. sp. Specimens were found in small water hollows (20–30 cm in diameter) between plants. 37 ind. were collected at the site described below, 24.VII.1984, leg. V. KOŠEL. After revision of the material of *Sphaerium corneum* (coll. V. KOŠEL), the specimens of the sample were identified as *Sphaerium nucleus* according to the shape of the shells, density of pores in shells, shape of cardinal teeth and character of the habitat. The largest specimen measured (length, height, width) 8.1–7.1–6.1 mm.

The site was visited again in November 2004, but there was neither free water nor typical marsh vegetation (*Sphagnum* sp. in negligible amount) and the typical habitat of the site was estimated to be extinct.

Distribution: The geographical distribution of *S. nucleus* is insufficiently known due to its long lasting identity with *S. corneum*. According to KORNIUSHIN (2001), the species is known mainly from Europe, one site lies in Kyrgyzia. Of the countries bordering with Slovakia, reliable findings are from Ukraine (KORNIUSHIN, 2001) and the Czech Republic (KORÍNKOVÁ, 2006).

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