

THE SPREADING OF THE GENUS *MESONISCUS* IN THE ROMANIAN CARPATHIANS

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The author draws an inventory of the caves and the MSS locations from the Romanian Carpathians inhabited by *Mesoniscus graniger*.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mesoniscus graniger (Frivaldsky, 1863) is one of the two species belonging to the genus *Mesoniscus* Carl, 1906 – the sole representative of the family Mesoniscidae Verhoeff, 1908.

Unlike *Mesoniscus alpicola* (Heller, 1858) found only in Lombardia and the North – Eastern Alps, *Mesoniscus graniger* has a greater range: from the Northern Carpathians (Eastern Slovakia), all along the Carpathians, the Bihor and the Banat Mountains to the Dinarids and the Iulian Alps (Gruner et Tabacaru, 1963; Tabacaru, 1969).

The sole comprehensive inventory of the stations with *Mesoniscus graniger* from the Romanian Carpathians belongs to Gruner and Tabacaru who carried out a revision of the family Mesoniscidae in 1963. Afterwards, many of our colleagues collected a large amount of material from locations previously unknown or unpublished. Therefore, we considered worth gathering all the unpublished data along with our new locations in order to continue and complete the work of Gruner and Tabacaru.

2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FAUNISTIC INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING *MESONISCUS* IN ROMANIA

1921. Apparently, Bokor is the first to mention *Mesoniscus* from Romania and, namely, from the following caves: Köros – Barlang (a cave we could not identify), Peștera din Valea Misitului (peștera = cave), Peștera Meziad, Peștera Zmeilor de la Onceasa, Peștera Ferice, Probabarlang (another cave we could not identify), Peștera Fânațe and Peștera Socolovăț.

1930. Verhoeff mentions *Mesoniscus* from two locations: Dej, where he found the animals under rocks from a shady forest (this is the sole location from our country where *M. graniger* is found outside the limestone mountains) and from Postăvarul Forest (beside Brașov).