

*MESONISCUS GRANIGER DRAGANI* N. SSP. FROM  
THE CAVES OF VALEA SIGHIȘTELULUI AND VALEA  
CRĂIASA. THE GRANULATION AT *MESONISCUS*  
*GRANIGER*

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Jusqu'à present, on connaissait deux sous-espèces de *Mesoniscus graniger* en Roumanie: *Mesoniscus graniger graniger* (Frivaldsky, 1865) et *Mesoniscus graniger moldavicus* Radu, 1977. Notre travail présente une nouvelle sous-espèce, *Mesoniscus graniger dragani*, et les caractères de la granulation tergale dans le genre *Mesoniscus*.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In their revision of the family Mesoniscidae, Gruner and Tabacaru (1963) argue that the genus *Mesoniscus* has only two species: *Mesoniscus alpicola* (Heller, 1858) and *Mesoniscus graniger* (Frivaldsky, 1865). All individuals collected in Romania belong to *M. graniger*. Also, until now, there were only two subspecies of *Mesoniscus graniger* recorded in Romania: *Mesoniscus graniger graniger* (Frivaldsky, 1865) and *Mesoniscus graniger moldavicus* Radu, 1977. The two subspecies described by Chappuis (1944) from Romania, *M. alpicola vulgaris* and *M. alpicola meridionalis* are, in fact, synonymous with *Mesoniscus graniger graniger*.

In the same revision, Gruner și Tabacaru show: "Verschiedene Exemplare aus dem Bihargebirge (Fundorte 20–24), erreichten jedoch 12 bis 13 mm Länge. Die sehr grossen Tiere fallen auch dadurch auf, dass sie auf den Tergiten zahlreichere aber kleinere Höckeren tragen als die kleineren Individuen" (Some individuals from the Bihor Mountains (localities 20–24: caves from Valea Sighiștelului – our note) reach a length of 12–13 mm. These bigger animals are characterized by the presence on the tergites of more rows of smaller tubercles than the tubercles found at animals of smaller sizes (from other localities – our note).

Taking into account this observation, we analysed in detail this population and we have found out that both characters investigated (the size and the granulation) are constant and significative characters that enable us to establish a new subspecies: *Mesoniscus graniger dragani* (the subspecies is named after Andrei Drăgan, a friend of the author) for the populations from Valea Sighiștelului and Huda de la Chișcau.

**2. MATERIAL AND METHODS**