

NEOBISIUM BLOTHROIDES (TÖMÖSVÁRY, 1882)
(NEOBISIIDAE, PSEUDOSCORPIONES): AN ENDEMIC
SPECIES FROM ROMANIA

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The species "*Obisium*" *blothroides* was discovered and described from a single cave nr. Mehadia, Romania. At that time, Mehadia was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which accounts for the later hence further mistake made by BEIER (1932, 1963) who claimed that the species inhabits "SO-Ungarn". However, *Neobisium blothroides* can be regarded as an endemic and relict form inhabiting a number caves in Romania, already cited in this paper. Although its habitus resembles that of cavernicolous pseudoscorpions, the presence of anterior and (reduced) posterior eyes supports the view that it is in the phase of intense colonization of underground milieux in the area studied.

Key words: pseudoscorpions, *Neobisium blothroides*, endemism, relicts, cave fauna, Romania.

INTRODUCTION

The geological past of Romania has been a tormented one; in its soil, very ancient fixed shields combine with more recent earths, formed by sedimentation in the pre-Tertiary and Tertiary seas. There are lofty young mountains, which make up most of the Carpathian mountain ranges. More remote or more recent volcanic activity raised the chain of volcanoes in Eastern Transylvania and isolated cones in the Western Mountains and elsewhere. In addition to this, erosion brought about by Quarternary glaciers, gradual descent of running water into valleys, unloosing of the lateral gradients, formation of new (dry) land in flood plains, and advance of the Danube Delta towards the sea have completed the details of Romania's hilly regions.

In the present study, four samples of cave pseudoscorpions collected in Romanian caves have been analyzed, diagnosed and described; they all belong to *Neobisium blothroides* (Tömösváry), which is here considered to be a relict and endemic form of the underground habitats that are otherwise widely distributed in the area under investigation.

SYSTEMATIC PART

NEOBISIIDAE J. C. CHAMBERLIN
NEOBISIUM J. C. CHAMBERLIN
NEOBISIUM BLOTHROIDES (TÖMÖSVÁRY, 1882)
(Figs. 1–28)

Synonyms – *Obisium blothroides* Tömösváry, 1882: 224.

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