

Oxychilus alliarius (Gastropoda: Zonitidae) in the Czech Republic

Lucie JUŘIČKOVÁ¹⁾ & Vojen LOŽEK²⁾

¹⁾ Department of Zoology, Charles University, Viničná 7, CZ–128 44 Praha 2, Czech Republic;
e-mail: tomas.juricka@tiscali.cz

²⁾ Geological Institute Academy of Science the Czech Republic, Rozvojová 135,
CZ–165 00 Praha 6, Czech Republic

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Abstract. Three isolated localities of the atlantic snail species *Oxychilus alliarius* (Miller, 1882) were found in the Czech Republic. The localities are located far from SE border of the distribution of this species at an elevation higher than 600 m.

Distribution, Mollusca, Gastropoda, *Oxychilus alliarius*, Czech Republic

Oxychilus alliarius (Miller, 1882) is an atlantic species, common in Iceland, British Islands and from West France to North Switzerland, North-West Germany, North Poland and South Norway, Sweden and Finland. Elsewhere in Scandinavia it occurs only in greenhouses (Turner et al. 1998).

This species lives in woods, fields, rocks, occasionally in gardens and greenhouses. *O. alliarius* is tolerant of poor acidic places, such as conifer plantations.

It is smaller than our common *O. cellarius* (O. F. Müller, 1774) (only 5.5–7.0 mm), closer-coiled than *O. cellarius*, its suture is a little deeper, spire a little raised and last quarter whorl sometimes slightly compressed and down turned. Umbilicus is rather broad, eccentric (Fig. 1). *O. alliarius* smell strongly of garlic if disturbed or fingered (Kerney et al. 1983).

In the Czech Republic Ložek (1996) found several living specimens in the nature reserve of Getsemanka II in the Brdy Mts. (coordinates 49° 35' 35" N; 13° 45' 10" E) at an elevation 690 m (V. Ložek coll. and det.). This habitat is a mesic submontane deciduous forest consisting of beech with an admixture of sycamore maple, elm and ash. The herb layer is rich in nutrient-demanding plants, such as *Mercurialis perennis* L., *Urtica dioica* L., *Actea spicata* L., etc.

On July 7, 1996 L. Juříčková found 5 adult and 8 juvenile specimens of *O. alliarius* in the remains of a cellar in the ruins of a house in the former village of Umíř near Plachtín (Manětín) (49° 56' 29" N; 13° 08' 58" E) at an elevation 615 m (L. Juříčková coll. and det.). The humid habitat is located in relatively dry and oligotrophic surroundings. This locality was revisited on May 18, 1998 when a small population of juvenile specimens was present. On July 15, 2000 the cellar was completely destroyed and the whole population extinct.

The third locality is Kejšovice near Úterý (49° 56' 53" N; 13° 03' 13" E) at an elevation 650 m (21 August 2002 L. Juříčková lgt., coll. and det.). Three specimens were found in a humid ditch with bushes (*Sambucus niger* L. etc.) and *Urtica dioica* L.

All these localities are in West Bohemia, more than hundred km from SE border of distribution of this species and at elevations higher than 600 m in relatively rich trophic conditions. The recent transportation of this snail to a small cellar in Umíř is unlikely. It is more likely it occurred during the period before II. World War when the village was inhabited. However the chance of a small population surviving more than 50 years, in a very small habitat, is negligible. The problem of how this atlantic element was transported to these isolated localities thus remains open.



Fig. 1. *Oxychilus alliarius* (Miller) from Umř (West Bohemia) (photo by the senior author).

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