

First record of *Arrhopalites principalis* Stach, 1945 (Collembola) from Bjørnøya, Svalbard

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Arrhopalites principalis Stach, 1945 (Collembola) has been hitherto reported from Svalbard archipelago on a few occasions. This is the first record of this species from Bjørnøya. One individual was extracted from soil collected on the north Alfredfjellet slope, southern Bjørnøya, close to a little auk colony.

Key words: Bear Island, Collembola, seabirds, springtail.

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Introduction

Bjørnøya (Bear Island, 74°N 19°E) is the southernmost island of the Svalbard archipelago. It is situated midway between the Norwegian mainland and Spitsbergen and comprises an area of 178km². During the period 1961–1990 the mean temperature for July and August (the warmest months) was 4.4°C, and that of the coldest month (January) was –8.1°C. Average annual temperature was –2.4°C and the precipitation was 371mm (eKlima 2012). The island's terrestrial ecosystems are strongly influenced by different colonial seabird species, especially on the cliff-dominated southern part and the north-western plateau, and are almost barren inland. Access to the island is more difficult than to Spitsbergen and, as a result, scientific attention has been more limited. Thus, in many ways it remains a *terra incognita*. It has been poorly examined and insufficiently described

in the specialist taxonomical and ecological literature, exemplified by the recently published records of two mesostigmatid mite species (*Zercon andrei* Sellnick, 1958 and *Zerconopsis mustairi* (Schweizer, 1949)) that are new to the Svalbard fauna (Gwiazdowicz *et al.* 2009).

Fjellberg (1984) reported 24 Collembola species from Bjørnøya. Totally, there are 68 springtail species recognized in the Svalbard Archipelago (Coulson 2012). *Arrhopalites principalis* Stach, 1945 is a Holarctic species but it has been hitherto reported from very few localities of the Svalbard archipelago. Previous records exist from Ny-Ålesund (Fjellberg 1994), Hornsund (Byzova *et al.* 1995, Uvarov & Byzova 1995), Isfjord, Endalen (Dollery *et al.* 2006), Edgøya (Ávila-Jiménez 2011), and Hoelhalvøya, Aasefjellet (own data). This is the first record of *A. principalis* from Bjørnøya.