

Larinioides sclopetarius found in Paldiski harbour, Estonia (Araneae, Araneidae)

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The orb-weaving spider *Larinioides sclopetarius* (Clerck) was found in the harbour of Paldiski, northern Estonia. A female of this species, usually found near the water, was collected from a net on the quay building, July 2004.

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The orb-weaving spider *Larinioides sclopetarius* (Clerck, 1757), see Fig. 1, was reported recently for the first time in the Estonian area from a ferry sailing between Hiiumaa island and Haapsalu, the Estonian mainland (Pettersson 2002). The first record in the Estonian land was made by me in Paldiski harbour, Harjumaa county, northern coast of Estonia (ca. 59°22'N, 24°3'E). A female was caught from her web on the quay building near the water, 3 July 2004. Later, the species has been found also in southern Saaremaa island (Lõu in Salme) and in the ferry between Saaremaa and the Estonian mainland (Kuivastu - Virtsu), in August 2005 (N. Fritzén, pers. comm.).

L. sclopetarius has a wide, mainly nemoral, range in Europe, including the British Isles; it is known also from China, Korea, Japan and North America (Esyunin & Efimik 1996, Harvey et al. 2002). Adjacent to Estonia, *L. sclopetarius* has been reported from Lithuania, Latvia, Belarus, Russian plain (Mikhailov 1997), Sweden (Kronstedt 1997), and recently also from the Åland islands, Finland (Fritzén 2005). In Norway there are only a few old records from the southern parts, and the species is listed there as “extinct?” (Aakra & Hauge 2000).

Records of *L. sclopetarius* are almost al-



Figure 1. *Larinioides sclopetarius* female from the Åland islands. Photo N. Fritzén.

ways made in localities near the water, it is known often as “Bridge spider”, and it has been considered as a synantropic species (see Kronstedt 1997, Aakra & Hauge 2000, Harvey et al. 2002, Fritzén 2005). Although the species is widely-distributed in North America, it has been regarded there as probably

introduced by man (Dondale et al. 2003).

Pettersson (2002) supposed that the *L. sclopetarius* specimens he found in the ferry between the Estonian mainland and Hiiumaa (the same ferry is also sailing to Saaremaa) could originate from Sweden. The ferry had been bought from Sweden five years earlier, and the population may have followed within the ferry to Estonia (Pettersson 2002).

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Selostus – Finnish summary

Larinioides sclopetarius-ristihämähäkki löydetty Paldiskin satamasta, Virosta. - Tämä laajalle levinnyt ristihämähäkkilaji tunnetaan Viron lähialueilta Ruotsista, muista Baltian maista ja Valko-Venäjältä, ja se on hiljattain ilmoitettu myös Ahvenanmaalta (Fritzén 2005). Norjasta sen epäillään hävinneen. Lajia tavataan yleensä lähellä vettä ("siltahämähäkki"), ja se kulkeutuu helposti laivojen mukana.

Aikuinen naarasyksilö taltioitiin Paldiskin sataman laiturirakenteisiin tehdystä pyyntiverkosta 3.7.2004. Virosta se on aikaisemmin löydetty Hiidenmaan ja Haapsalun välillä liikennöivästä autolautasta (Pettersson 2002). Vuonna 2005 N. Fritzén löysi lajia myös mantereelta Saarenmaalle kulkevasta lautasta sekä Saarenmaan eteläosista (Salme).