Key for the identification of the nymphs of the leafhopper subfamily Idiocerinae in Germany

(Hemiptera: Cicadomorpha, Cicadellidae, Idiocerinae)

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Zusammenfassung: Erstmalig werden Bestimmungsschlüssel für die Larven der in Deutschland vorkommenden Arten der Zikaden-Unterfamilie Idiocerinae vorgelegt. Anhand detaillierter dichotomer Schlüssel sind damit sämtliche 9 Gattungen und die meisten der 25 Arten bestimmbar.

Abstract: For the first time, a key for the identification of the nymphs of the leafhopper-subfamily Idiocerinae is presented for the German fauna. Dichotomous keys lead to the 9 genera and most of the 25 species. The identification is supported by more than 60 drawings, thereof habitus drawings of all species.

Key words: Auchenorrhyncha, nymphs, Idiocerinae, Germany, identification key

1. Introduction

In 2005, a project was started to develop a comprehensive key to the nymphs of plantand leafhoppers of Germany (see Stöckmann *et al.* 2009). For the identification of the nymphs of the subfamily Idiocerinae no key is available, except a first attempt by Vilbaste (1982) for Northern Europe. This key covers only six species, is without drawings, and has some deficiencies in the species descriptions.

2. The nymphs of the subfamily Idiocerinae

In Germany, 25 species in nine genera are recorded, all living on woody plants, some of them monophagously on *Acer* spp., *Populus* spp., *Salix* spp. and *Prunus spinosa*. All species are univoltine, 14 species hibernate as egg, 11 species as adults. The nymphs (fifth nymphal stage) appear from beginning to end of June (hibernation as egg) or from end of July to beginning of September (hibernation as adults) In many cases spatio-temporal niche separation can be found in related species (Tab. 1). Especially the sometimes very narrow host plant specialisation can be used as an additional character in species identification.

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Table 1: Spatio-temporal distribution of the species of the subfamily Idiocerinae in Germany. Hib = Hibernation, Nymph = months of occurrence of stage-V-nymphs, Frq = Frequency; Abd = Abundance (on the hostplant: 1 = low; 2 = intermediate: 3 = high, mostly after Nickel 2003, partly after Niedringhaus et al. 2010); ** partly incl. hybrid-forms.

Hostplant	Species of Idiocerinae	Hib.	Nymph	Frq	Abd	Distribution in Germany (C = Central, S = South)
Populus nigra**	Rhytidodus decimusquartus	egg(?)	M8-B10	2	1	all parts of Ger., esp. lowlands
	Tremulicerus vitreus	egg	E5-M6	2-3	3	esp. lowlands of C and S Ger
	Populicerus nitidissimus	egg	E5-B7	3	3	esp. lowlands of C and S Ger
	Tremulicerus fulgidus	adult	M8-B9	2	2	esp. lowlands of C and S Ger
	Stenidiocerus poecilus	adult	B7-M8	1	1	scattered in Ger., esp. in river floodplains
Populus alba	Tremulicerus distinguendus	egg	M6-B7	2	1	all parts of Ger., esp. lowlands
	Populicerus albicans	egg	M6-B7	3	3	all parts of Ger., esp. lowland
	Viridicerus ustulatus	adult	E7-B10	3	1	all parts of Germany
Populus tremula	Tremulicerus tremulae	egg	B6-E6	1-2	2	esp. North and C Germany
	Populicerus populi	egg	B6-E6	3	3	all parts of Germany
	Populicerus laminatus	egg	B6-E6	1-2	(3)	all parts of Germany
Salix aurita	Populicerus confusus	egg	B6-E6	3	2/3	all parts of Germany
	Idiocerus lituratus	egg	B6-E6	2-3	2	all parts of Germany
	Metidiocerus elegans	egg(?)	6(?)	1	1	scattered all over Germany
Salix caprea	Populicerus confusus	egg	B6-E6	3	2/3	all parts of Germany
	Idiocerus lituratus	egg	B6-E6	2-3	2	all parts of Germany
	Metidiocerus elegans	egg(?)	6(?)	1	1	scattered all over Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
	(Metidiocerus rutilans)	adult	M7-M8	2-3	1	esp. C and S Germany
Salix cinerea	Populicerus confusus	egg	B6-E6	3	2/3	all parts of Germany
	Idiocerus lituratus	egg	B6-E6	2-3	2	all parts of Germany
	Metidiocerus elegans	egg(?)	6(?)	1	1	scattered all over Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
Salix viminalis	Populicerus confusus	egg	B6-E6	3	2/3	all parts of Germany
	Metidiocerus rutilans	adult	M7-M8	2-3	1	esp. C and S Germany
	Metidiocerus impressifrons	adult	M7-BIX	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
Salix alba	Idiocerus stigmaticalis	egg	M6-B7	3	2/3	all parts of Germany
Junior and	Idiocerus herrichii	adult	M7-B8	1	1	scattered all over Germany
	Metidiocerus rutilans	adult	M7-M8	2-3	1	esp. C and S-Germany
	(Populicerus confusus)	egg	B6-E6	1	1	all parts of Germany
Salix fragilis	Idiocerus herrichii	adult	M7-B8	1	1	scattered all over Germany
	(Metidiocerus rutilans)	adult	M7-M8	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
	(Populicerus confusus)	egg	B6-E6	1	1	all parts of Germany
Salix triandra	Metidiocerus rutilans	adult	M7-M8	2-3	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Metidiocerus impressifrons)	adult	M7-BIX	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
	(Populicerus confusus)	egg	B6-E6	1	1	all parts of Germany
Salix eleagnos	(Metidiocerus rutilans)	adult	M7-M8	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Idiocerus stigmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
	(Idiocerus vicinus')	adult	M8-E8	1-2	(3)	S Germany
Salix purpurea	Idiocerus similis	egg	B6-E6	1-2	1	esp. C and S Germany
	Idiocerus vicinus	adult	M8-E8	1-2	(3)	S Germany
	Metidiocerus rutilans	adult	M7-M8	2-3	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Idiocerus stagmaticalis)	egg	M6-B7	1	1	all parts of Germany
	(Metidiocerus impressifrons)	adult	M7-BIX	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
Salix repens	Idiocerus lituratus		B6-E6	3	3	all parts of Germany
(coast)	imouna marmas	egg	D0-E0	J	5	an parts of Octinary

Hostplant	Species of Idiocerinae	Hib.	Nymph	Frq	Abd	Distribution in Germany (C = Central, S = South)
Acer pseudo- platanus	Acericerus heydenii	adult	B8-B9	2	1	esp. C and S Germany
	Acericerus vittifrons	adult	B8-E8	2	2	esp. C and S Germany
	(Acericerus ribauti)	adult	E7-E8	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
Acer platanoides	(Acericerus heydenii)	adult	B8-B9	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Acericerus ribauti)	adult	E7-E8	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
Acer campestre	Acericerus vittifrons	adult	B8-E8	2	2	esp. C and S Germany
	Acericerus ribauti	adult	E7-E8	2-3	1	esp. C and S Germany
	(Acericerus heydenii)	adult	B8-B9	1	1	esp. C and S Germany
Prunus spinosa	Balcanocerus larvatus	egg	B6-B7	2-3	2/3	esp. C and S Germany
	Balcanocerus pruni	adult	8-9(2)	1	1(2)	SW Germany

Table 1 (continued)

The nymphal development of Idiocerinae follows - like in all Central European Auchenorrhyncha species - five stages (Fig. 1a). The body of the nymphs has a longish shape with a nearly parallel fore body and a narrowing abdomen. The abdomen is flattened, much broader than high (Fig. 1b). The body length (stage V) is between 3.5 mm (*Balcanocerus*) and 6 mm (*Rhytidodus*). The head is distinctly broader than the pronotum, medially not longer than laterally, the rim is more or less rounded, sometimes nearly straight.

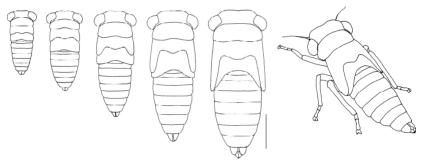


Fig. 1(a): Development of an Idiocerinae through five nymphal stages; (b) Idiocerinae from diagonally left.

In lateral view, the ventral parts of postclypeus and anteclypeus show an angle with the longitudinal axis of the body (Fig. 2a $\uparrow \uparrow$), not parallel to longitudinal axis of body (Fig. 2b $\uparrow \uparrow$).

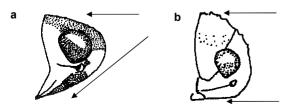


Fig. 2: Head from the right; (a) Idiocerinae, (b) Macropsinae.

The colouring is very variable, between species but also within species. The base colour ranges from entirely white over green (sometimes with many dots), greenish black and brown (sometimes with dark colouring) to nearly entirely black.

The colour, shape and distribution of body hairs are relevant characters for identification of genera:

- Body densely covered with hairs; hairs very long, dark and thick/bristly (*Idiocerus*)
- Body densely covered with hairs; hairs medium length, light and fine (Viridicerus)
- Body densely covered with hairs; hairs medium length, light and stiff/blunt (especially at margin of abdominal tergits) (Balcanocerus)
- Body densely covered with hairs; hairs very short, light and fine (Acericerus)
- Body only loosely covered with hairs (more dense at abdomen than at fore body); hairs light and fine (Metidiocerus, Stenidiocerus)
- Body more or less without hairs, only some fine hairs at margin of tergits (*Tremulicerus*, *Populicerus*, *Rhytidodus*)

In males the apical thickening of the antennae (palette) is already visible and can partly be used for species identification (Fig. 3). Species of the genera *Rhytidodus* and *Tremulicerus* do not have a palette.



Fig. 3: Antennae of males with and without apical thickening (palette) (left: *Populicerus*, right: R*hytidodus*).

In some species groups, the length of the gonapophyses (rudiments of genitalia, after Dmitriev 2002) can be used for species identification. In males the outer gonapophyses (G I after Dmitriev 2002) are separated only in apical part, in females over entire length (Fig. $4\uparrow\uparrow$).

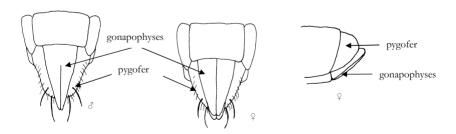
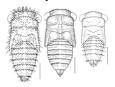


Fig. 4: Abdomen of male from below and of female from below and from left.

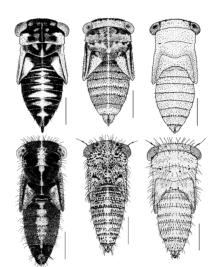
3 Key to genera and species of the subfamily Idiocerinae

- 1 Body densely covered with hairs 2





- Hairs very short and fine (at hind margin of tergits less than ¹/₄ as long as tergit height); on *Aver* spp.; hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) mainly in August... *Acericerus* (3 spec.)
- **3(2)** Body length over 4 mm; colouring variable: from light/dark spotted to light with ± large dots; hairs very long and dark; on *Salix* spp.; hibernation as egg (3 spec.) or adult (2 spec.), nymphs from June to August......



- **4(3)** Body completely dark, abdomen with rows of stiff and blunt hairs; on *Prunus spinosa*; hibernation as egg (1 spec.) or adult (1 spec.), nymphs (stage V) from June to Sept. (?)......
 - Balcanocerus (2 spec.)
- Body completely light (alive pale green) and of with conspicuously long antennae; abdomen with rows of fine hairs; on *Populus alba* in river floodplains, parks and on road verges; all parts of Germany; hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) from end of July to beginning of Oct.

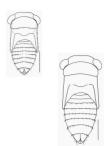
...... Viridicerus ustulatus





5(1) Fore body loosely covered with hairs, abdomen more densely covered; hairs light and fine _______6

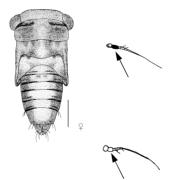
- Fore body more or less without

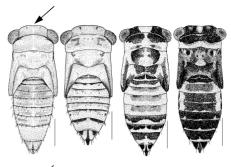






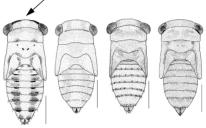






Body length < 4 mm; 3 antennae apically not thickened; fore margin of head not indented (†); on *Populus* spp.; hibernation as egg (3 spec.) or adult (1 spec.), nymphs (stage V) from end of May to beginning of Sept......

...... Tremulicerus (4 spec.)



Acericerus

2(1) Head only slightly rounded medially; on Acer (esp. pseudoplatanus and campestre); esp. in Central and South Germany; hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) from beginning to end of Aug.....

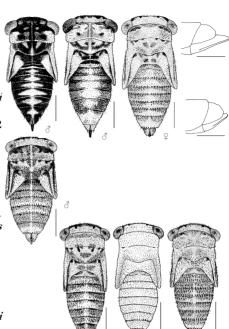
Idiocerus

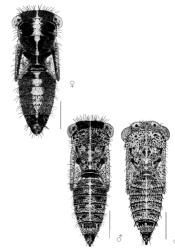
1 Upper side dark-spotted to nearly entire dark; on Salix purpurea (S. eleagnos)...

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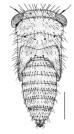
- Upper side ± dark with many confluent dark spots or dots; head ± broad (up to ca. 2.1 mm) and fore margin ± straight; on Salix purpurea; sometimes on S. eleagnos; only in South Germany; hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) from middle to end of Aug.............

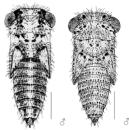
.....I. vicinus











Balcanocerus

- Probably no differences in habitus to B. larvatus (no material available); on Prunus spinosa in sunny, bushy habitats at warm sites (esp. hedgerows); only in Southwest Germany; hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) probably in Aug./Sept......

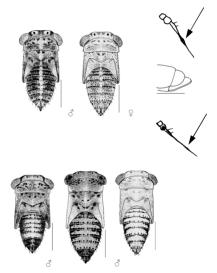
......B. pruni



Metidiocerus

- 1 ♂ with distinct thickening at antennae(↑); ♀ with long gonapophyses; esp. in floodplaines in the vicinity of waters; on small-leaved willows (esp. Salix viminalis, occasionally on S. purpurea and triandra); esp. in Central and South Germany, hibernation as adult, nymphs (stage V) from middle of July to beginning of Sept.....

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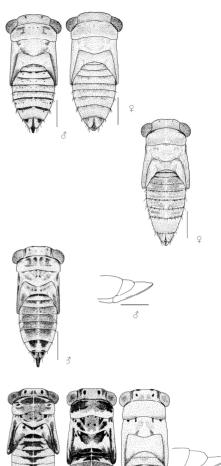


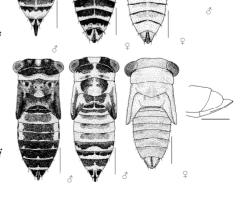
Populicerus

- **2(1)** Base colour single-coloured greenish-yellow; on willows, in floodplains and wet habitats; mainly on grey-leaved (*Salix cinerea, aurita, caprea, niminalis*); in all parts of Germany; hibernation as egg, nymphs (stage V) from beginning to end of June....... *P. confusus*
- **3(1)** Gonapophyses of ♂ long; on *Populus nigra*; in floodplains, on cultural land and in urban settlements; esp. in lowlands of Central and South Germany; hibernation as egg, nymphs (stage V) from end of May to beginning of July

......P. nitidissimus

- **4(3)** Gonapophyses of ♂ long; on *Populus tremula*; in all parts of Germany; hibernation as egg, nymphs (stage V) from beginning to end of June...... *P. laminatus*





Tremulicerus

- 1 Upper side light with two dark longitudinal stripes; on *Populus alba*; in floodplains, on cultural land and in urban settlements; in all parts of Germany, esp. in the lowlands; hibernation as egg, nymphs (stage V) from middle of June to beginning of July......

- On Populus nigra; esp. in the lowlands of Central and South Germany......3

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6 References

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Appendix: Nymphs (stage V) examined

Coll RR = collection Reinhard Remane, Dresden; coll HN = collection Herbert Nickel, Göttingen; otherwise collection Niedringhaus/Stöckmann, Oldenburg

- A. heydenii: 1 ♀: N Ger: Gimte/Hannoversch Münden (04.VIII.1991), coll. HN; 1 ♂: N Ger: Göttingen (06.VIII.08), coll. HN; 3 ♂ : N Luxembourg: Bockholz (36/18, 09.IX.04); 1 ♂ : C Luxembourg: Steinsel (92/50, 17.VIII.06).
- A. vittifrons: 5 ∂♀: N Ger: Groß Lengden/Göttingen (07.VIII.1991), coll. HN; 1♀: C Luxembourg: Nommern (59/25, 17.VIII.06).
- A. ribauti: 3 ∂♀: NW Ger: Oldenburg (25.VIII.07); 2 ∂♀: NW Ger: Drielaker See/Oldenburg (25.VII.07); 2 & (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Oldenburg (28.VIII.04); 1 &: S Ger: Schweinsberg/Bay.Wald (26.VIII.1996), coll. RR.
- Balcanocerus larvatus: 1 ♂: Central Ger: Neu-Morschen/Melsungen (03.VI.00), coll. RR; 1 ♀: C Luxembourg: Heisdorf (92/24, 01.VII.04); 1 &: S Luxembourg: Mamer (101/21, 30.VI.04). Balcanocerus pruni: no nymph available.
- Idiocerus stigmaticalis: 3 ♂♀: NW Ger: Heiliges Meer/Steinfurt (20.VI.07); 5 ♂♀: N Ger: Wümmewiesen/Scheeßel (28.VI.2006); 1 ♂, 2 ♂♀ (exuvia, reared): S Ger: Bayerischer Wald (01.VII.07); 1 ♀: C Luxembourg: Consdorf (61/11, 24.VI.03).
- Idiocerus lituratus: 8 &♀: NW Ger: Island of Langeoog (29.VI.06); 5 &♀: NW Ger: Island of Memmert (25.VI.1985); 1 ♀: N Ger: Wümmewiesen/Scheeßel (28.VI.06); 1 ♂ (exuvia, reared): N Ger: Heiliges Meer/Steinfurt (20.VI.07); 1 ♂: Central G: Klein-Steinberg (13.VI.1991), coll. HN.
- Idiocerus similis: 1 Q: NW Ger: Bornhorster See/Oldenburg (10.VI.07); 1 Q (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Bornhorster See/Oldenburg (11.VI.07); 1 &: Central Ger: Schweinfurt (16.VI.1994) coll. HN.
- Idiocerus vicinus: 7 ♂♀: S Ger: Ramsau (11.VIII.1997), coll. HN; 1 ♂: S Ger: Vorderriss (22.VIII.1998), coll. HN.
- Idiocerus herrichii: 1 ♀: NW Ger: Drielaker See/Oldenburg (25.VII.2007); 1 ♀ (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Drielaker See/Oldenburg (27.VII.2007); 2 ♂♀: Central Ger: Dettelbach (13.VII.07), coll. HN; 1 ♀: Central Ger: Stausebach/Marburg (08.VIII.1996), coll RR; 1 &: Central Ger: Schröck/Marburg (26.VII.1996), coll. RR.
- Metidiocerus elegans: no nymph available.
- Metidiocerus rutilans: 1 ♂ (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Oldenburg (31.VII.07); 4 ♂♀: Central Ger: Marburg (19. VII. 1995), coll. RR; 4 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Gosseldange (81/44, 18. VIII. 06).
- Metidiocerus impressifrons: 2 &♀: Central Ger: Dettelbach (13.VII.1994), coll. HN; 4 &♀: E Ger: G Zodel/Oder (01.IX.1996), coll. HN; $1 \stackrel{\wedge}{\circ}$ (exuvia, rearded): Central Ger: Bauerbach/Marburg (31.VII.1996), coll. RR; 2 ∂♀: S Luxembourg: Sanem (118/27, 30.VII.06).
- Populicerus nitidissimus: 1 ♀: N Ger: Göttingen (04.VII.06), coll. HN;; 3 ♂♂: C Luxembourg: Platen (67/22, 08.VI.06); 1 ♂: S Luxembourg: Waldbredimus (123/24, 26.V.05); 3 ♂♀: S Luxembourg: Remich (124/21, 26.V.05); 1 ♂: S Luxembourg: Esch Sur Alzette (128/20, 27.V.05).
- Populicerus laminatus: 1♂: NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (05.VI.2007), 4 ♂♀ (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (06.VI.2007).
- Populicerus populi: 4 ♂♀: NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (05.VI.2007); 6 ♂♀ (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (07.VI.2007); 1 ♀: C Luxembourg: Bissen (57/22 07.VI.06).
- Populicerus confusus: 1 ♀: NW Ger: Lingen (15.VI.2005); 3 ♂♀: N Luxembourg: Hautbellain (1/9, 28.VI.04); 3 \mathcal{Q} : N Luxembourg: Holzthum (22/12, 24.VI.05).

- Populicerus albicans: 4 ♀♀: Central Ger: Schweinfurt (16.VI.1994), coll. HN; 1 ♂: Central Ger: Rhön (13.VI.1996), coll. RR; 1 ♀: C Luxembourg: Reckange (69/15, 01.VII.04).
- Rhytidodus decimusquartus: 1 ♀: N Ger: Göttingen (15.IX.1991), coll. HN; 2 ♀♀: Central Ger: Heskem/Marburg (02.X.1995), coll. RR; 3 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Ettelbrück (46/25, 16.VIII.06); 2 ♂♂: C Luxembourg: Rosport 63/12 (11.VIII.04).
- Stenidiocerus poecilus: 1 ♀ (exuvia, reared): Central Ger: Bot. Garden Marburg (09.VII.1992), coll RR; 1 ♀: C Lux:emburg: Ettelbrück (46/25, 16.VIII.06); 2 ♂♂: C Luxembourg: Rosport (63/12, 11.VIII.04); 1 ♀: S Luxembourg: Bertrange (110/25, 31.VII.06).
- Tremulicerus distinguendus: 2 ♂♀: NW Ger: Varel/Dangast (16.VI.07); 1 ♀: Central Ger: Bot. Garden Marburg (09.VII.1992), coll. RR.
- Tremulicerus tremulae: 4 ♂♀: NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (05.VI.2007); 2 ♂♀ (exuvia, reared): NW Ger: Krusenbusch/Oldenburg (06.VI.2007).
- Tremulicerus fulgidus: 1 ♂: Central Ger: Marburg (02.X.1995), coll. RR; 3 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Ettelbrück (46/25, 16.VIII.2006); 5 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Colmar-Berg (57/17, 08.IX.04); 21 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Rosport (63/12, 11.VIII.04).
- Tremulicerus vitreuss: 15 ♂♀: C Luxembourg: Platen (67/22, 08.VI.06); 3 ♂♀: S Luxembourg: Remich (124/21, 26.V.05).
- Viridicerus usuulatus: 3 ♂♀: NW Ger: Drielaker See/Oldenburg (25.VII.07); 2 ♀♀: Central Ger: Heskem/Marburg (08.X.1996), coll RR; 5 ♂♀: S Luxembourg: Mamer (101/4, 22.VII.04).