An observation of the troglobite *Jimeneziella decui* feeding upon an immature of a theraphosid spider (Opiliones; Araneae)

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Abstract: A juvenile of *Jimeneziella decui* is recorded for the first time feeding on a mygalomorph spider immature (Theraphosidae). The predatory behaviour was not observed, and thus it is not possible to know if the prey was caught alive or was found dead but still fresh by the harvestman.
Key words: Opiliones, harvestman, Araneae, troglobite, threatened species, feeding, Cuba.

Observación del troglobio *Jimeneziella decui* alimentándose de un inmaduro de araña terafósida (Opiliones; Araneae)
Resumen: Se registra por primera vez un juvenil de *Jimeneziella decui* alimentándose de un inmaduro de araña migalomorfa (Theraphosidae). La conducta depredadora no fue observada, por lo que no es posible conocer si el opilión capturó la presa viva o la encontró muerta pero aún fresca.
Palabras clave: Opiliones, Araneae, troglobio, especie amenazada, alimentación, Cuba.

Jimeneziella decui is a troglobite harvestman that is considered as a Cuban threatened species (Alegre *et al*., 2016). The biology of this endemic species is poorly known. We have been collecting individuals for morphological studies, DNA analyses and more recently for behavioral studies, but never there were observed any event of predation by this harvestman. As part of some studies conducted from February 27 to March 4, 2016 in a population of Cueva de Máximo (20°20'13,27"N – 74°27'14,47"W), Baracoa, Guantánamo province, we had the opportunity to observe the first feeding act of this species.

The 1st March 2016, at 5.00 pm hr. was observed one juvenile of *J. decui* feeding on an immature of an undetermined mygalomorph spider (Theraphosidae). Both specimens were under one stone in the aphotic part of the cave. The harvestman was detected using their chelicerae to holde the spider by the soft abdomen. The prey was examined in situ and it was still fresh and almost entire (just two legs missing). The predatory behavior was not observed; thus it is not possible to know if the prey was caught alive by the harvestman or if the item was found dead but still fresh. The juvenile of *J. decui* possessed 1.02 mm of dorsal scutum length and 0.64 mm of dorsal scutum width and the inmature of the spider measured 0.72 mm of body length. Both specimens are deposited at the Arachnological Collection of the Institute of Ecology and Systematics, Havana.

Harvestmen consume animal food items even dead or alive, as previously reported for some species in the nature (e.g., Acosta *et al*., 1995; Gnaspini, 1996; Sabino & Gnaspini, 1999; Machado *et al*., 2000; Santos & Gnaspini, 2002). The direct observation of one individual of *J. decui* feeding on a fresh juvenile mygalomorph spider (even if was encounter dead or killed by the opilion), suggests that this species can feed upon small soft-bodied preys such as small arthropods and their larvae. The spider occupies the same microhabitat of *J. decui* in the cave and it is very abundant, therefore could be one of the frequently dietary items of this harvestman. This troglobite could be a primarily scavenger but may opportunistically subdue small live preys like small arthropods or larvae, but further studies are certainly required to confirm this hypothesis.

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