

**INVERTEBRATE FAUNA OF SMALL TEMPORARY  
RAIN POOLS OF VILLAGE DIVIACKA NOVÁ VES  
(UPPER NITRA REGION – SLOVAKIA)**

*JOZEF OBOŇA<sup>1</sup> – PATRYCJA DOMINIAK<sup>2</sup> – ZUZANA MATUŠOVÁ<sup>3</sup> –  
SOŇA ŠČERBÁKOVÁ<sup>4</sup> – MAREK SVITOK<sup>3</sup>*

**ABSTRACT**

*Small rain pools (pluviotelmata) are temporary aquatic ecosystems characterized by large variation in conductivity, oxygen deficiency and slightly acidic to neutral pH. As a result of our investigation of such habitats in the vicinity of Diviacka Nová Ves village in Slovakia, 16 taxa of macroinvertebrates have been recorded. Among them, Diptera larvae of the families Chironomidae and Ceratopogonidae were present in nearly all of the examined pools.*

**KEY WORDS**

*Pluviotelmata, puddles, macroinvertebrates, Diptera, adaptations, habitat desiccation*

**INTRODUCTION**

Rain pools or pluviotelmata (LELLÁK & KUBÍČEK 1992) are small temporary aquatic habitats formed by rain water in small depressions on the ground (e.g. in clay soils) which experience a recurrent dry phase (WILLIAMS & FELTMATE 1992; FISCHER et al. 2000; WILLIAMS 2006). These habitats present a hydrologically unstable ecosystem with variable physical and chemical conditions (WILLIAMS 1996). More scientific attention is paid to them in the tropical and subtropical regions, where the rain pools are convenient breeding sites for larvae of epidemiologically important Diptera inhabiting these ecosystems (e.g. FONTANARROSA et al. 2000; AZARI-HAMIDIAN 2011). In Europe, however, these common aquatic habitats are largely neglected and only a couple of studies were focused on their biodiversity (e.g. SMOEÁK 2013). The aim of this study was to describe community composition and environmental characteristics of small rain pools of village Diviacka Nová Ves in Upper Nitra region (Slovakia).

<sup>1</sup> *Laboratory and Museum of Evolutionary Ecology, Department of Ecology, Faculty of Humanities and Natural Sciences, University of Prešov, 17. novembra 1, ul. 17. novembra č. 1, SK-081 16 Prešov, Slovakia; e-mail: obonaj@centrum.sk*

<sup>2</sup> *Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, University of Gdańsk, Wita Stwosza 59, PL-80-308 Gdańsk, Poland; e-mail: heliocopris@gmail.com*

<sup>3</sup> *Faculty of Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Technical University in Zvolen, T. G. Masaryka 24, Zvolen SK-960 53, Slovakia; e-mail: zuzana.matushova@gmail.com, svitok@tuzvo.sk*

<sup>4</sup> *Water Research Institute, Nábřežie arm. gen. L. Svobodu 5, SK-812 49 Bratislava 1, Slovakia; e-mail: scerbakova@vuvh.sk*