
RECORD OF CONVERSATION

WITH: DARRELL UBICK, CURATORIAL ASSISTANT (415 321-8310); DUBICK@CALACADEMY.ORG
FROM: DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY, CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, SAN FRANCISCO
SUBJECT: EASTSHORE ENERGY CENTER; POTENTIAL EFFECTS ON THE FAIRMONT MICROBLIND HARVESTMAN, *MICROCINI LUMI*
DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2007
BY: SUSAN SANDERS

Darrell Ubick is the co-author of:

Biggs, T. S. and D. Ubick. 1989. The harvestman family Phalangodidae. 2. The new genus *Microcina* (Opiliones, Laniatores). *J. Arachnol.*, 17: 207-220. He is the collector of the holotype of this new species, *Microcini lumi*, which was collected near the intersection of Lake Chabot Road and Fairmont View Drive, approximately 5 miles northeast of the Eastshore Project Area.

I asked Dr. Ubick if he could tell me something about the natural history of *M. lumi* at this location near Lake Chabot, and described the source of our concern about potential impacts to this species (i.e., increases in nitrogen from a power plant affecting plant species composition in a serpentine plant community).

M. lumi is a mostly subterranean species, inhabiting cracks in the soil where moisture levels are high. The reasons for its association with serpentine soils are unknown, but Dr. Ubick speculated that it might be related to the way serpentine soil cracks deeply when it dries. It cannot tolerate drying conditions, so deep cracks provide moist refuge for this perennial species to wait out the dry season. It is predatory, probably eating Collembola mites or other slow-moving, small prey.

Dr. Ubick emphasized that little is yet known about this species, which is less than 1 mm in length, subterranean, and emerges only when conditions are moist, but he thought it unlikely that increased nitrogen or ammonia and changes in plant species composition would have adverse impacts. He thought direct impacts to the serpentine soils and rocks would be harmful to *M. lumi*.

This is the only known location of this species, but the actual distribution is not known since it has been only recently described and has not been studied.

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