

Metaclisa azurea (Tenebrionidae) and *Lacon punctatus* (Elateridae): updated records from Hungary (Coleoptera)

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MERKL O., SÁR J. & RINGLER M.: *Metaclisa azurea* (Tenebrionidae) and *Lacon punctatus* (Elateridae): updated records from Hungary (Coleoptera).

Abstract: Locality data of two Mediterranean saproxylic beetle species, *Metaclisa azurea* (Tenebrionidae) and *Lacon punctatus* (Elateridae) are given from Hungary. With 2 figures.

Keywords: beetles, saproxylic, locality data

Introduction

The southern regions of Transdanubia (the western part of Hungary) are especially rich in sylvicolous species that are distributed in the Mediterranean, but rarities north of that and not extend beyond the Pannonian biogeographical region. These areas are still spotted with wood pastures and mature forests with ancient trees that provide habitat for saproxylic organisms. This paper is devoted to report fresh findings of two such beetle species that are seldom collected in Hungary.

Abbreviations: CMR = Collection of Miklós Ringler, München, Germany; HNHM = Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary.

Metaclisa azurea (Waltl, 1838)

Remarks

Metaclisa Jacquelin du Val, 1861 is a member of the tribe Alphitobiini of the subfamily Tenebrioninae. It includes seven Palearctic (LÖBL et al. 2008) and one Nearctic (AALBU et al. 2002) described species. Two species inhabit the Western Palearctic, and only one, *Metaclisa azurea* (Waltl, 1838) extends into the central part of Europe. According to LÖBL et al. (2008) it is known to occur in Georgia, Hungary, Israel,

Romania, Russia (the Caucasus in the South European Territories), Slovenia, Syria and Turkey. KASZAB (1957) mentioned it from Croatia, based on specimens from Ludbreg and Vukovar, deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum, and Sicily; the latter must be erroneous (Aliquò & Soldati 2010). As for Hungary, more than a half century passed until the species was found again at a few localities in Southern Transdanubia. The species was recorded as new to Romania from the "Dumbrava grazed oak forest" at Tismana in Gorj county by BUSSLER et al. (2005).

In the 2000s Hungarian collectors brought back a number of *Metaclisa azurea* specimens from the Ansariya Mts in Latakia province, Syria, where the species was collected at night from trunks of *Quercus coccifera* heavily damaged by larvae of longicorn beetles. However, the species is much rarer in the European continent, and it seems to be associated with dead wood of large tree trunks standing in the open landscape. Such situations have become very rare in the inner parts of the European continent, and mainly restricted to habitats with ancient trees (e.g. wood pastures). The localities in Southern Transdanubia apparently represent the westernmost and northernmost limits of the range of *Metaclisa azurea*.

Records from Hungary

Baranya county: Abaliget [centre of the village: N 46°8'33.90", E 18°6'56.52", 207 m asl], [= collecting date is not stated, but must be in the first half of the 20th century], leg. Victor Stiller (11 specimens, HNHM); Almamellék, Sas-rét, N 46°12'15.30", E 17°53'49.80", 167 m asl, bükk kérge alól [= from beneath bark of beech], 16.IX.2010, leg. József Sár & Miklós Ringler (3 elytra, HNHM); Mozsgó, Bögör-erdő, N 46°6'16.44", E 17°53'47.22", 229 m asl, Fagus trunks, under the bark, 24.V.2009, leg. Miklós Ringler (1 specimen, CMR); Patapoklosi, fáslegelő [= wood pasture], N 46°4'34.78", E 17°42'51.21", 134 asl, Quercus robur kérge alól [= from beneath bark of pedunculate oak], 18.III.2001, leg. Ottó Merkl (2 elytra, HNHM).

Somogy county: Gamás, Vadépuszta [centre of the village: N 46°36'10.16", E 17°47'59.27", 181 m asl], 1888, leg. János Pável (5 specimens, HNHM); Zselicszentpál, N 46°17'43.56", E 17°49'3.72", 170 m asl, elhalt bükkből, egyelés [=from dead beech, hand-captured], 22.IV.2011, leg. József Sár & Miklós Ringler (1, specimen, CMR, 1 specimen, HNHM).

Lacon punctatus (Herbst, 1779)

Remarks

The speciose click beetle genus *Lacon* Laporte, 1838 includes 51 species in the Palearctic region (CATE 2007). In Hungary three species are known to occur, even the relatively most frequent *Lacon querceus* (Herbst, 1784) is very sporadic in the country (MERKL & NÉMETH 2009). Their larvae are carnivorous, preying on insects associated with dead, fungus-grown wood. *Lacon punctatus* (Herbst, 1779) is widely distributed in the Mediterranean, from Morocco to the Caucasus, with isolated records as north as Germany (CATE 2007). Localities from Czech Republic and Slovakia are mentioned by LAIBNER (2000) and mapped by DUŠÁNEK & MERTLIK (2004). In Hungary it is rarely collected; the three localities known up to 2009 were listed by MERKL & NÉMETH (2009).

Still unpublished records in Hungary

Baranya county: Abaliget [centre of the village: N 46°8'33.90", E 18°6'56.52", 207 m asl], V. 1913, leg. Victor Stiller (3 specimens, HNHM); Baranya county: Mecsek Mts, no closer locality [centre of the mountains is about N 46° 7'59", E 18°11'20"], 24.VI.1936, József Erdős (1 specimen, HNHM).



Fig. 1: *Metaclisa azurea* (Waltl, 1838)



Fig. 2: *Lacon punctatus* (Herbst, 1779)

Somogy county: Kaposgyarmathajmás [now Hajmás, centre of the village: N 46°16'31.23", E 17°54'24.78", 141 m asl], [collecting date is not stated, but must be in the first half of the 20th century], leg. Victor Stiller (1 specimen, HNHN); Zselicszentpál, N 46°17'43.56", E 17°49'3.72", 170 m asl, elhalt bükkből, egyelés [= from dead beech, hand-captured], 22.IV.2011, leg. József Sár & Miklós Ringler (1, specimen, CMR, 1 specimen, HNHN).

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