FOLIA ENTOMOLOGICA HUNGARICA
ROVARTANI KÖZLEMÉNYEK
Volume 76 2015 pp. 115–118

Rhynchaenus xylostei: rediscovery of a rare beetle in the Hungarian fauna (Coleoptera, Curculionidae: Curculioninae)

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Abstract – Current observation of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* Clairville, 1798 from Hungary is presented and can be considered as rediscovery of this beetle after 100 years in Hungary. Historical data of the species are summarised. The species is new to the fauna of Croatia and Romania. With 2 figures.

Key words – Weevils, Uppony Mountains, Hungary, Croatia, Romania

INTRODUCTION

The distribution of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* Clairville, 1798 (= *lonicerae* Fabricius, 1801, not Herbst, 1795, not Razoumowsky, 1789) is poorly known in the Carpathian Basin. Only one record of the species was published by Endrődi (1971) from the area of present-day Hungary, based on two specimens from Martonvásár. Since these are the only known specimens from the last 100 years, existence of the species in the Hungarian fauna needed to be confirmed. The systematic search of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* resulted in the rediscovery of this species in the North Hungarian Mountains. Collecting this species is very efficient by beating down from the host plant. The imago can be easily identified in the field. Based on the literature as well as the specimens in the Coleoptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM), Budapest, the status of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* in the Hungarian fauna was evaluated.

RHYNCHAENUS XYLOSTEI IN HUNGARY

New record – One imago (not sexed, Fig. 1), Hungary, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, Uppony, Upponyi-szoros [pass], 14.VI.2015, leg. M. Molnár. Geocoordinates: N 48° 21' 36", E 20° 44' 49", 10×10 km UTM grid code DU 54.

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Identification was based on Rheinheimer & Hassler (2010). The specimen is deposited in the private collection of M. Molnár (Martonvásár).

The imago of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* was observed in the Uppony Pass, at the marginal zone of an oak woodland, in the shadow, on its fruit ripening host plant, fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera xylosteum* L.), in the late morning hours. This occurrence is the only known record of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* from Hungary after 100 years.

Situated in the northern part of the North Hungarian Mountains, Uppony Pass is a ravine-like valley along the Bán stream which includes the Lázbérc dam.

Fig. 1. *Rhynchaenus xylostei* Clairville, 1798 from Uppony Pass, Uppony Mts, North Hungary (photo T. Németh)

The southern limestone slopes are covered with thermophilous oak woodlands, scrub forests and slope steppe meadows. The vegetation primarily consists of Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), sessile oak (*Q. petraea*) as well as the fly honeysuckle (Molnár *et al.* 2008).

Historical data – From present-day Hungary, two specimens of this beetle were collected by Hugó Diener in the Martonvásár manor park, Fejér county, Central Transdanubian Region, in the beginning of the 20th century (10×10 km UTM grid code: CT 34) (Endrődi 1971). In the area, fly honeysuckle was widely distributed at that time. Nowadays, neither the host plant nor the beetle can be found at Martonvásár. It is confirmed by regular search for *Rhynchaenus xylostei*.

Based on specimens of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* deposited in the Coleoptera Collection of the HNHM the following localities are known from other parts of the former Kingdom of Hungary (Fig. 2). **Slovakia**: Zázriva (= Zázrivá), Fatra Mountains, VII.1956, leg. Dr. Lenczy; Bártfa (= Bardejov), VI.1912, leg. Mihalovics; Lőcse (= Levoča), Szepes county, VII.1917, leg. Dr. J. Fodor; Szklenófürdő (= Sklené Teplice), unknown date, leg. E. Dudich; Szádelő (= Zádiel), unknown date, unknown collector. **Croatia**: Delnice, VI.1915, leg. Victor Stiller; Jasenak, Ogulin, VI. 1905, unknown collector, VI.1905. **Romania**: Máramaros (=Maramureş), unknown date, leg. Reitter; Szemenik (= Munții Semenic), unknown date, leg. D. Kanabé.

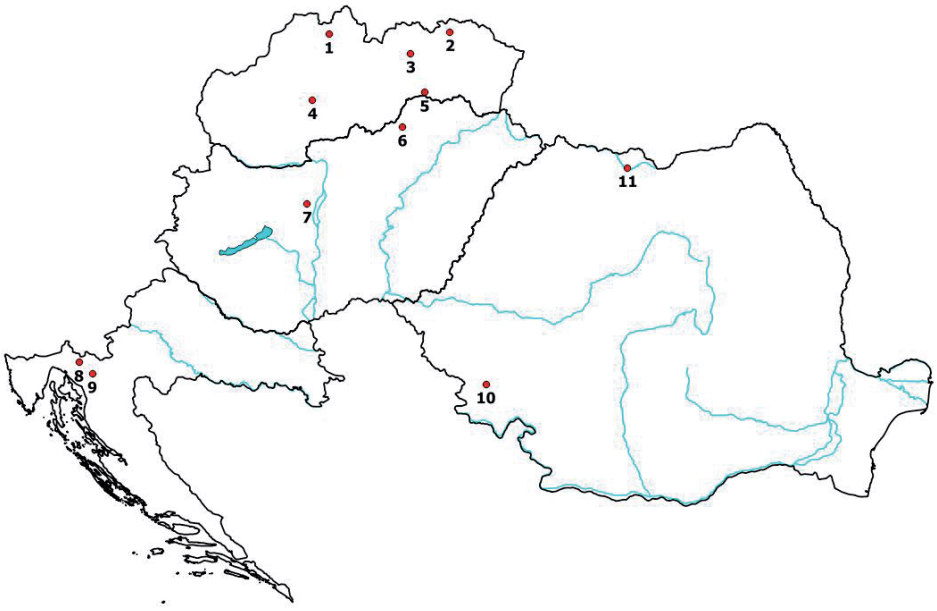

Fig. 2. Historical and recent occurrences of *Rhynchaenus xylostei* Clairville, 1798 in the parts of the former Kingdom of Hungary: 1 = Zázrivá, 2 = Bardejov, 3 = Levoča, 4 = Sklené Teplice, 5 = Zádiel, 6 = Uppony, 7 = Martonvásár, 8 = Delnice, 9 = Jasenak, 10 = Semenic, 11 = Maramureş

Habitat and life cycle – *Rhynchaenus xylostei* strongly depends on its host plant, fly honeysuckle, which is an Euro-Siberian floral element. This host plant primarily occurs in the mountains and rarely in the lowlands. In Hungary, it widely occurs in thermophilous oak woodlands (Gencsi & Vancsura 1997). Overwintering imagoes are found on the host plant in early spring where they lay eggs to the leaves. The mature larvae erupt from the leaf tissue, then make a cocoon in which they pupate. The adults emerge in late summer (Rheinheimer & Hassler 2010).

Distribution – *Rhynchaenus xylostei* is generally known from Central and North Europe. In the northern latitudes its area is disjunct (Rheinheimer & Hassler 2010). The following countries are listed by Alonso-Zarazaga (2015): France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, Finland, Ukrainae, Russia, as well as Hungary. An occurrence was published from Izhevsk, Udmurt Republic, Russia, from the Botanical Garden of the Udmurt State University (Dedyukhin 2010). On the basis of the localities mentioned above, the species is new to Croatia and Romania.

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Acknowledgements – The authors would like to thank Ottó Merkl (HNHM) for providing access to the HNHM collection, Tamás Németh (HNHM) for Fig. 1, Zoltán Nagy (Budapest) and István Kelemen (Kisújszállás) for their help in the field.

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