

Interesting records of some weevil species of the subfamily Lixinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in southern Moravia with notes on their bionomics

Zajímavé nálezy několika druhů nosatců podčeledi Lixinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) na jižní Moravě s poznámkami k jejich bionomii

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Abstract. Interesting records of 5 rare or little-known species of Lixinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from Moravia are presented and data about their host plants are given. *Cyphocleonus achates* (Fähræus, 1842) was found in the Podyjí National Park associated with *Centaurea stoebe* L. in habitats that are currently the northernmost localities of this species. *Pseudocleonus grammicus* (Panzer, 1789) was found associated with *Imula conyzæ* (Griesselich) Meikle, reported here as its host plant for the first time. *Lixus punctiventris* Boheman, 1836 and *L. angustus* Herbst, 1795 are recorded from the plant *Picris hieracioides* L. (as a host plant known only for the latter species), and their larval development is briefly described. Some records of *Pseudocleonus cinereus* (Schrank, 1781), at present a rather rare species in the Czech Republic, are also given.

INTRODUCTION

Weevils of the subfamily Lixinae, in spite of their large size and marked colouring, are still insufficiently known. This paper gives results of a survey of this group in some Moravian localities carried out in 1997-2004. It is based on my bionomical investigations in the field and examination of three private collections (P. Jelínek, Brno; T. Petržela, Znojmo; M. Škorpík, Lukov).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Individual collecting and direct examination of potential host plants were used as the main collecting method. A few specimens were found accidentally, e.g. on a road or under a stone. Collecting circumstances are given in the text as long as they are known. Nomenclature of (host) plants is given according to Kubát et al. (2002), for the genus *Centaurea* L. according to Dostál (1976, 1989) and for species not native in the Czech Republic according to Anonymus (1995). Names of host plants given in "older" literature and today considered as synonyms have been updated according to current nomenclature. Grid mapping codes of localities named in the paper are given according to Zelený (1972).

LIST OF RECORDS

Cyphocleonus achates (Fähræus, 1842)

Material examined: Moravia mer., Podyjí National Park: 7162 – without precise locality data, vii.1994, 1 spec., V. Vlášil lgt., D. Poisel det., R. Stejskal revid., coll. P. Jelínek; Havraníky –

Staré vinice hill (7162c), 330 m a.s.l., 29.viii.1999, 1 specimen on dry grassy vegetation, M. Škorpík lgt. et coll., R. Stejskal det., S. Benedikt revid.; Kraví hora hill (7162a), 290 m a.s.l., 6.viii.2002, 1 ♀, 1 ♂; 16.viii.2002, 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀ collected and 5 spec. observed; 5.x.2002, 1 ♂ collected and 4 spec. observed; 3.xi.2002, rests of 3 dead spec. (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀); 1.vii.2003, 1 ♂; 15.vii.2003, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ observed; 29.viii.2003, about 30 spec. observed; all R. Stejskal lgt., observ., det. et coll.; 20.ix.2003, about 20 spec. observed, R. Stejskal & S. Benedikt observ.

Cyphocleonus achates is a large, 10-17 mm long, brown-grey mottled weevil, one of the largest and most beautiful ones in the Czech Republic. It is a Palaearctic species occurring in central (south-eastern part), eastern and southern Europe and Asia Minor (Dieckmann 1983). The list of known localities of *C. achates* given by Dieckmann (1983) and updated by Stinson et al. (1994, denoted with*) is as follows: Moravia, Slovakia, Austria (Lower Austria: Deutsch-Altenburg, Dürnstein*, Wiener Neustadt), Hungary (western: Csákvár*, central: Velence*), the Ukraine (Doney area), Romania (Dobrugea: Agighiol*, Babadag*, Victoria*, Tulcea*), Bulgaria, Greece (Macedonia: Asprovolta*), Turkey (Anatolia), Syria, Caucasus, Russia (Sarepta), Kirgizstan. The species has also been reported from peninsular Italy (Abbazzi et al. 1994) and released in North America (Stinson et al. 1994). It has often been confused with *C. morbillosus* (Fabricius, 1792), which most likely occurs only in the western part of the Mediterranean region (Algeria, Morocco, Spain, southern France, Italy, Greece) and all its records from central Europe probably refer to *C. achates* (Dieckmann 1983). For example, Havelka (1965) recorded it from Královský Chlmec (7597d) and Veľký Kamenec (7696b).

In the Czech Republic, *C. achates* has been found only in Moravia in Pouzdřany (7065d, vii.1955, J. Gottwald lgt. et det., S. Smreczyński revid., see Gottwald (1966)) and in the Pavlovské vrchy hills (15.vi.1967, Daněk lgt. et coll., J. Fremuth det.). On the basis of these records, this species has been also listed from Moravia by Strejček (1993). Apart from the likely records by Havelka (see above), only a few records are known from Slovakia: Roubal (1941) mentioned Slovenské Nové Mesto (7596c), single records are known from Senec (7770c, the specimen is labelled as "Senec, Laco", S. Benedikt revid., coll. J. Cunev) and Štúrovo (8278a, 10.vii.1954, J. Fremuth lgt., det. et coll.). Recent population of *C. achates* in Slovakia is known from Liščie diery near Nesvady (8074d), where the species is not rare (Benedikt 2000).

While *C. achates* was observed at nearly every visit to the Kraví hora hill in 2002-2003, I have not confirmed its occurrence at other possible localities in the Podyjí National Park (e.g. Havraníky and Hnanice). The species is not rare at the Kraví hora hill, occurring in dry, sunny places with very sparse vegetation cover (e.g. *Festuca* spp., *Carex humilis* Leysser, *Armeria vulgaris* Willd., *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull, rich cover of moss and lichens) and being apparently absent in places with a higher vegetation density. According to the Habitat catalogue of the Czech Republic (Chytrý et al. 2001) the locality is a mosaic of habitats „T8.1 Dry lowland and colline heaths“, and „T3.5 Acidophilous dry grasslands“. While adults of other members of related genera usually occur in early spring (April, May), the adults of *C. achates* do not emerge until July. This is in agreement with data from Slovakia (unpublished). The acidic nature of this habitat is also worth mentioning, since other records of this thermophilous species in Slovakia and Moravia come from sites with chalky ground, such as limestone, calcareous sand or loess. Generally, these substrata usually host much more thermophilous species than, e.g. the biotitic granodiorite at the Kraví hora hill.

I collected the adults under leaves, hiding in leaf roses or sitting on basal leaves of the host plant, especially in the morning and evening. During sunshine they also climb up the host plants: several specimens were collected by sweeping (2.vii. and 15.vii.2003) or were observed sitting on the flower heads of both living and dry host plants (numerous specimens on 29.viii.2003 and 20.ix.2003), which may enhance the hardening process of the cuticle (Stinson et al. 1994). The earliest specimen was observed on July 1, the latest (living) one on October 5. In Austria the adults were also found from early August to mid-September (Stinson et al. 1994).

I have collected all but one specimen on *Centaurea stoebe* L. (syn. *Acosta rhenana* (Bor.) Soják, *Centaurea rhenana* Bor., see Kubát et al. (2002)). A single specimen collected on 6.viii.2002 was found, probably accidentally, on *Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench. The species occurs on *C. stoebe* also in southern Slovakia (Benedikt 2000). In other cases, *C. stoebe* has not been recorded as a host plant of *C. achates*.

According to Smreczyński (1968), this weevil should live on *Achillea millefolium* L. and *Centaurea arenaria* M. Bieb. Dieckmann (1983) gives three *Centaurea* species, *C. maculosa* Lam., *C. diffusa* Lam. and *C. arenaria* M. Bieb.; Stinson et al. (1994) assume it is restricted only to two *Centaurea* species, *C. diffusa* Lam. and *C. maculosa* Lam. During a laboratory test, Stinson et al. (1994) reared this weevil successfully on *C. friderici* Vis., *C. biebersteinii* (DC.) Dost. and *C. vallesiaca* (DC.) Jordan as well, but they did not manage to rear it on *Achillea millefolium* L. (beetles neither fed, nor oviposited on this plant). None of the above mentioned *Centaurea* species occurs neither in the localities of *C. achates* in the Podyjí National Park (Grulich 1997), nor in the Czech Republic (except the allochthonous *C. diffusa* (Kubát et al. 2002)).

One of the reasons why no records on *C. stoebe* exist might be the confused taxonomic position of this plant species. Some morphotypes of *C. stoebe* were (and are sometimes) named as *C. maculosa* in central Europe (J. Štěpánek, pers. comm.). *Centaurea stoebe* is often given as a complex of more species including *C. maculosa* (see e.g. Schmeil & Fitschen 1988, Ochsmann 2000). However, *C. maculosa* does not occur in central Europe and its distribution is probably restricted to south-western France (J. Štěpánek, pers. comm.). Ochsmann (2000) confirmed this finding by stating that “all natural populations of a few species of the *Centaurea stoebe*-complex in central Europe belong to the same taxon, namely *C. s. stoebe* L.”, because they are not separable from each other “on the basis of morphological, geographical and molecular characters”. The plants classified by Stinson et al. (1994) as *C. maculosa* should be thus classified as *C. stoebe* and *C. maculosa* should be excluded from the list of the host plants of this weevil.

At any rate, *C. achates* appears to be an oligophagous weevil associated with several *Centaurea* species, probably only with those belonging to the subgenus *Acrolophus* (see Dostál 1976). This subgenus includes all its host plants known so far: *C. diffusa*, *C. stoebe*, in the laboratory also *C. friderici*, *C. biebersteinii* and *C. vallesiaca* (Smreczyński 1968, Dieckmann 1983, Stinson et al. 1994, Benedikt 2000, Stejskal in litt.).

Its occurrence in Moravia is very valuable, because the localities in the Podyjí National Park are currently the northernmost habitats of *C. achates* (48°49' N, 16°00' E). The new data also confirm its current presence in Moravia after almost 40 years. Additional surveys may lead to a discovery of other localities in the surroundings of Znojmo.

***Pseudocleonus cinereus* (Schränk, 1781)**

Material examined: Moravia mer., Vranov nad Dyjí – Vranov dam (7060b), 350 m a.s.l., v.1997, 3 spec. on a road along the dam shore, T. Petržela lgt. et coll., R. Stejskal det.; 6.iv.2004, 1 spec. under a log, M. Škorpík lgt. et coll., V. Křivan det.

Associated with various Asteraceae, such as *Leontodon* L. (e. g. *L. saxatilis* Lam.) and *Centaurea* L., in laboratory also feeding on some *Taraxacum* Wigg., *Sonchus* L. and *Hieracium* L. (Dieckmann 1983). Distributed in Europe (except northern Europe), Near East and central Asia (Dieckmann 1983). Known from whole former Czechoslovakia (Strejček 1993), where it is rather rare at present.

***Pseudocleonus grammicus* (Panzer, 1789)**

Material examined: Moravia mer.: Mutěnice env. (7068c), loess steppe grassland (the locality has been destroyed), 10.v.1977, 1 spec., S. Benedikt lgt., B. Malec det. et coll.; Únanov near Znojmo (7062c), 310 m a.s.l., 16.viii.1998, rest of a specimen (head and thorax) under *Chenopodium* sp.; Brno – Na Kořeblíku (6765d) (base of Hády hill), 320 m a.s.l., 27.ix.1998, 1 dead spec. under *Erigeron annuus* (L.) Pers. (among roots) and 1 spec. inside a stalk of *Inula conyzae* (Griesseli) Meikle; all R. Stejskal lgt., det. et coll.; Kurdějov (7066b) (1.5 km NNW of village), 300-340 m a.s.l., 20.iii.-3.vi.2002, 1 spec., pitfall trap, J. Kaláb lgt. et coll., R. Stejskal det.; Moravia mer. or., Velká nad Veličkou (7171a), 3.v.2001, 1 spec., D. Poisel lgt., det. et coll., R. Stejskal revid.

Associated with various Asteraceae, recorded from *Carlina acaulis* L., *C. onopordiifolia* DC., *Centaurea jacea* L., *Helichrysum stoechas* DC., *Artemisia absinthium* L. (Dieckmann 1983). One specimen was found inside the roots of *Centaurea stoebe* L. in western Slovakia (Plavecký Mikuláš (7469d), limestone hill near the village, 8.vi.1994, 1 spec., S. Benedikt lgt., det. et coll.). Distributed in Europe (not in all countries), in the north only in Sweden (Östergötland); in central Europe a local and rare species (Dieckmann 1983). Known from the whole former Czechoslovakia (Strejček 1993).

***Lixus punctiventris* Boheman, 1836**

Material examined: Moravia mer.: Brno – Na Kořeblíku (6765d) (base of Hády hill), 320 m a.s.l., 9.x.2001, 1 spec. inside *Picris hieracioides* L., D. Poisel lgt., det. et coll.; 12.x.2001, 1 spec. and 3 dead specs. inside *P. hieracioides* (a few empty pupal cells including leaving holes were also found); 1.iv.2002, 1 spec. under a stone; Adamov (6665d), Jelení skok Nature Reserve, 26.v.2004, 1 spec. on the margin of a forest road leading through a beech forest (probably a specimen leaving its winter shelter), all R. Stejskal lgt., det. et coll.

The locality Na Kořeblíku is a moderate slope of southern exposition. A part of the area is cultivated and used agriculturally, the remaining fallow used to be cultivated in the past. Fragments with a semi-natural vegetation are confined mostly to the upper part of the slope. *P. hieracioides* is a very common, somewhere even a dominant plant there. Pupal cells of *L. punctiventris* are located at the dividing line between the stalk and the root or about 2-5 cm above the root inside the stalk. Imago leaves the cell in autumn through a circular hole about 4 mm in diameter.

So far only *Senecio jacobaea* L., *S. aquaticus* Hill., *Crepis biennis* L. and *C. vesicaria* L. subsp. *taraxacifolia* (Thuill.) Schinz et Keller have been listed as host plants of *L. punctiventris*

(Dieckmann 1983). It is distributed in Europe (except northern Europe), Near East and North Africa; in central Europe rare (Dieckmann 1983). Known from the whole former Czechoslovakia (Strejček 1993).

Lixus angustus (Herbst, 1795) (= *L. sanguineus* (Rossi, 1792) nec DeGeer, 1775)

Material examined: Moravia mer., Znojmo – Přímětice (7162a), kaolin quarry, 250 m a.s.l., 15.iv.1999, 1 spec. under basal leaves of an Asteraceae (*Leontodon* L.?); Moravia mer. or., Jestřabice (6968b), 270 m a.s.l., 29.vii.2003, 5 specs. inside of *Picris hieracioides* L. and 1 spec. swept from the same plant species; all R. Stejskal lgt., det. et coll.

The host plants in Jestřabice (*Picris hieracioides*) supported a large population of this weevil, including larvae, pupae as well as adults in pupal cells inside the plants (at the line dividing the stalk and the root). Generally, its development is very similar to *L. punctiventris*. Some differences exist in the dimensions of the larval galleries, pupal cells and leaving holes, which are smaller in *L. angustus* because this species is smaller in the adult stage. The adults also emerge earlier, already in summer. Both species probably cannot inhabit the same area because of their identical ecological niche.

According to Dieckmann (1983), Asteraceae are the only host plants of this weevil although it has been found also on plants of other families such as Chenopodiaceae and Geraniaceae. The same author gives *Leontodon autumnalis* L. and *Picris hieracioides* L. as host plants, and reports feeding of beetles on *Hieracium* L. and *Taraxacum* Wigg. The species is distributed in Europe (except Great Britain and Scandinavia) and Near East (Dieckmann 1983); in former Czechoslovakia known from Moravia and Slovakia (Strejček 1993), where it is rare.

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SOUHRN

V článku jsou uvedeny nálezy pěti druhů nosatců podčeledi Lixinae (rýhonosci) s údaji o jejich bionomii. Po téměř čtyřiceti letech byl na Moravě znovu zjištěn nosatec *Cyphocleonus achates* (Fåhraeus, 1842), a sice na vřesovištích v Národním parku Podyjí. Tento druh zde žije v současnosti na nejsevernějším výběžku svého areálu. Pozornost byla věnována živným rostlinám tohoto nosatce. V Podyjí byl nalézán od července do října; brouci jsou ráno a večer ukryti v listové růžici a přes den za slunného počasí sedí na květech chrpy latnaté (*Centaurea stoebe* L.), která dosud nebyla, kromě údajů Benedikta (2000), jako jeho živná rostlina v literatuře uváděna (zejména z důvodu nedořešeného taxonomického statutu této chrpy – často bývala míšena s blízkce příbuznou chrpou *C. maculosa* Lam., jejíž rozšíření je ovšem omezeno patrně pouze na jihozápadní Francii (J. Štěpánek, pers. comm.), leží tedy mimo areál brouka, a tak by měla být tato chrpa vyjmuta z okruhu hostitelských rostlin tohoto nosatce). Po zhodnocení literárních údajů (Smreczyński 1968, Dieckmann 1983, Stinson et al. 1994, Benedikt 2000) a dle šetření autora je možné shrnout, že *C. achates* je oligofág vázaný na některé druhy chrp (*Centaurea* L.) sekce (podrodu) *Acrolophus* (viz Dostál 1976).

Dále jsou uvedeny nálezy v současnosti již v ČR poměrně vzácného rýhonosce *Pseudocleonus cinereus* (Schränk, 1781) u Vranova nad Dyjí. Rýhonosec *Pseudocleonus grammicus* (Panzer, 1789) byl zjištěn na lokalitě poloruderálního charakteru Brno – Na Kořebníku (úpatí

kopce Hády), v jednom případě mezi kořeny turanu ročního (*Erigeron annuus* (L.) Pers.), ve druhém přímo v lodyze (těsně nad kořenovým krčkem) omanu hnidáku (*Inula conyzae* (Griesseli) Meikle), který dosud nebyl jako živná rostlina tohoto brouka znám. Na stejné lokalitě byl nalezen i druh *Lixus punctiventris* Boheman, 1836, poprvé zjištěný na hořčíku jestřábníkovitém (*Picris hieracioides* L.). V okolí Jestřabic bylo zjištěno silné napadení této rostliny (uvnitř báze stonků nalezeny larvy, kukly i imaga) příbuzným druhem *Lixus angustus* (Herbst, 1795). U obou druhů je stručně popsán larvální vývoj, včetně popisu chodeb a umístění kukelní komůrky.

FAUNISTIC RECORDS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC – 180

Coleoptera: Curculionidae

Anthonomus (Anthonomidius) rubripes Gyllenhal, 1836. Moravia mer.: Podyjí National Park: Popice (7162), 30.v.1996, 1 spec., K. Rébl lgt. et coll., R. Stejskal det.; Havraníky – Havranické vřesoviště heath (7162), 10.v.2003, 1 spec.; Konice (7162), 26.iv.2004, 1 spec.; Hnanice – near a former military building (7162), 5.v.2004, 1 spec., all V. Křivan lgt., det. et coll.; Znojmo – Načeratický kopec hill, former military area (7162), 270 m, 18.viii.2003, 1 ♀; 19.viii.2003, 1 ♀; 2.v.2004, many specs. observed (6 specs. collected), all R. Stejskal lgt., det. et coll. Collected by sweeping or beating from host plants (*Potentilla argentea* L.). Distribution: Slovakia (Roubal 1941, Havelka 1965, Holecová 1995), Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, southern Italy, Macedonia, Turkey, Armenia, Caucasus, southern Russia (Dieckmann 1988, Abbazzi et al. 1994). Based on literature records, the species was also published from the former Czechoslovakia (Strejček 1993), however, without specification of particular region. The first reliable records from the Czech Republic.

Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis Neresheimer et Wagner, 1924. Moravia mer.: Vranov nad Dyjí (7160), 13.v.1994, 1 ♀, J. Krátký lgt., det. et coll.; Brno – Sadová (6865), 30.iii.1998, 3 ♀♀ on *Alliaria petiolata* (M. Bieb.) Cavara et Grande, R. Stejskal lgt., det. et coll., S. Benedikt revid. Distribution: Germany, former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, western Ukraine (Dieckmann 1972). In the Czech Republic known from Bohemia, from Moravia given with question mark (Strejček 1993). Occurrence in Moravia confirmed.