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Contribution to the knowledge of the distribution of *Euplectus frater* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) in Europe

Příspěvek k rozšíření druhu *Euplectus frater* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae) v Evropě

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Abstract. In this paper, findings of *Euplectus frater* Besuchet, 1964 from Albania, Czech Republic, Greece, Montenegro and Slovakia are presented. The species is recorded for the first time for Albania and the Czech Republic. The presence of *Euplectus linderi* Reitter, 1884 in Slovakia is discussed, and refuted.

INTRODUCTION

Euplectus Leach, 1817 is a species rich genus with 32 species currently known in Europe alone (Schülke & Smetana 2015). *Euplectus frater* Besuchet, 1964 is closely related to *E. linderi* Reitter, 1884. Differential diagnosis between these two species based on external morphology is rather complicated. Male genitalia drawings of both species are given by Besuchet (1964).

In this paper, additional records of *E. frater* are presented.

RESULTS

Euplectus frater Besuchet, 1964 (Fig. 1)

Material examined. Albania: Dhërmi, 40°09′32.95″N, 19°37′06.80″E, 12.v.2016, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, high macchia formation, sifting leaf litter and dead wood, A. Šíma leg., det. et coll.; Krongji, 39°55′03.62″N, 20°10′47.22″E, 10.v.2016, 4 ♂♂, 1 ♀, sifting leaf litter and dead wood of *Platanus* sp. (Fig. 2), A. Šíma leg., det. et coll.; Palasë, 40°10′28.02″N, 19°35′36.45″E, 13.v.2016, 2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀, sifting dead wood of *Quercus* sp. stumps in a pasture forest (Fig. 3), D. Čáha (Praha, Czech Republic) leg. et coll., A. Šíma det.; same locality and date, 3 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀, A. Šíma leg. et. det., P. Krásenský (Chomutov, Czech Republic) (1 ♂, 1 ♀) and A. Šíma (2 ♂♂, 17 ♀♀) coll.; Vurgu i Ri, 39°48′07.34″N, 20°04′36.54″E, 11.v.2016, 2 ♀♀, sifting leaf litter and dead wood of *Quercus* sp. in a pasture forest, A. Šíma leg., det. et coll.
Czech Republic: Moravia mer., Znojmo env., Kraví hora hill (7162), 48°50′51.53″N, 16°02′28.59″E, 15.ix.1998, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Z. Kraus leg., M. Švarc (Liberec, Czech Republic) det. et coll.
Greece: Corfu island, without date, 1 ♂, [G.] Paganetti leg., C. Besuchet det. (1979), coll. National Museum, Praha.

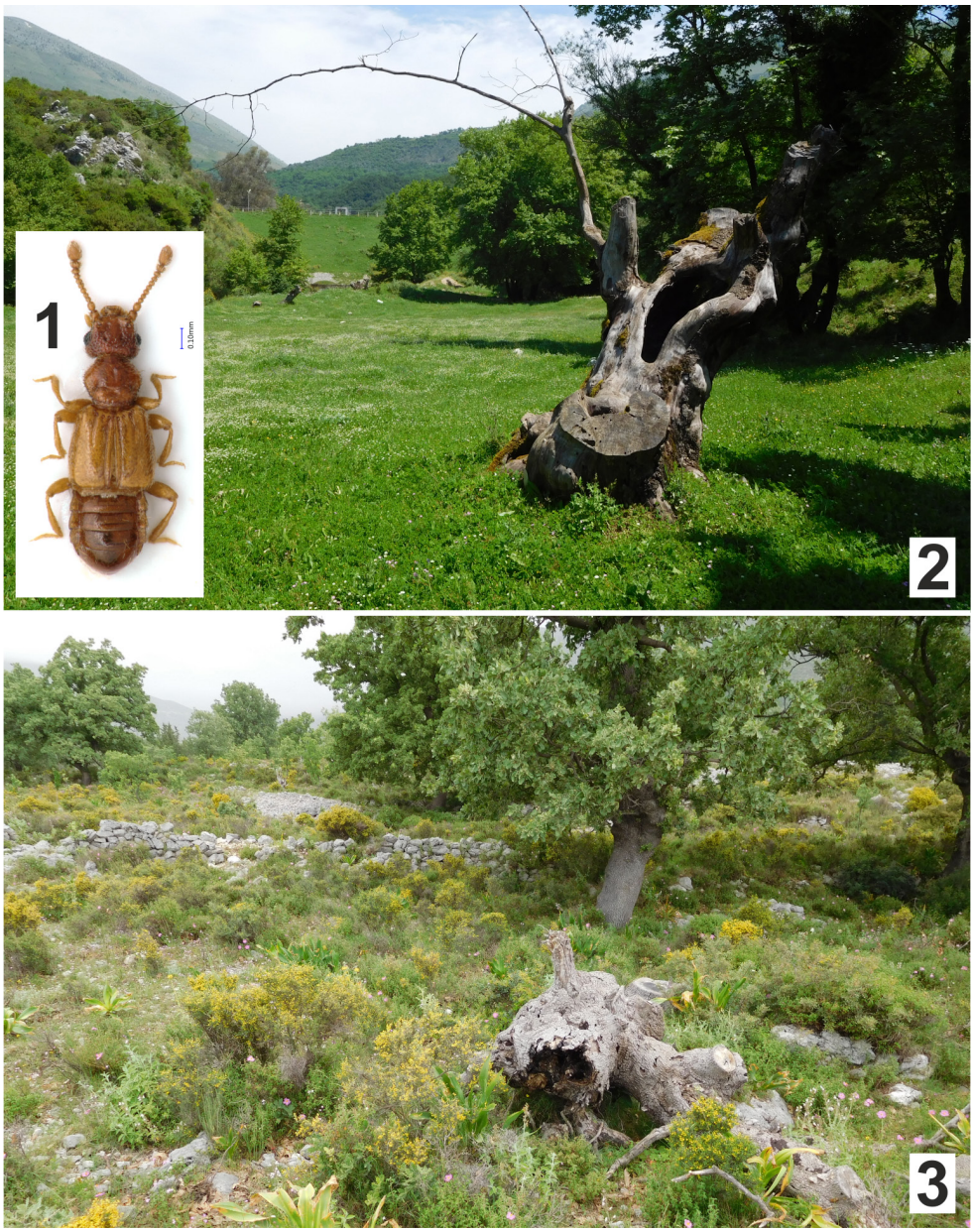
Montenegro: Sutomore, 1881, 1 ♂, [J.] Stussiner leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. National Museum, Bratislava (SNM); Vladimir, Suma hill, 42°01′19.07″N, 19°17′11.28″E, 3.v.2014, 1 ♂, sifting dead wood, A. Šíma leg., det. et coll.
Slovakia: Čachtice, 25.iii.1936, 1 ♂, L. Korbel leg., R. Kolimár (Pezinok, Slovakia) det. et coll.; Kamendín [= Kamenín], 25.iv.1937, 1 ♂, [J.] Roubal leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964) (specimen originally determined as *Euplectus linderi* (Reitter, 1884), [J.] Roubal det.), coll. SNM; Kováčov, x.1936, 2 ♂♂, [J.] Roubal leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. SNM; Nitra, 1924, 1 ♂, [J.] Roubal leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964) (specimen marked as "spec. nov." by V. Machulka), coll. SNM; Parkan [= Štúrovo], 27.iii.1924, 1 ♂; 11.x.1936, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, all [J.] Roubal leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. SNM; same locality and date, [J.] Roubal leg., 2 spec., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. Museum of Natural History, Genève (MHNG); same locality, but without date, 1 ♂, 6 ♀♀, [J.] Roubal leg., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. SNM; same locality, 27.iii.1928, [J.] Roubal leg., 1 spec., C. Besuchet det. (1964), coll. MHNG.
Distribution. Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, and Turkey (Schülke & Smetana 2015). First records for Albania and the Czech Republic.

DISCUSSION

So far, the reported distribution of *Euplectus linderi* (Reitter, 1884) comprises France, Italy, Slovakia, and Switzerland (Schülke & Smetana 2015). The first record for Slovakia was given by Roubal (1936) from the towns of Nitra and Trenčín. Other specific data for the occurrence of *E. linderi* in Slovakia are given by Rous (1967): "Štúrovo, vi. [19]63, 2 spec. (unsexed), under bark of remnants of an oak trunk". It is possible that these two specimens in fact belong to *E. frater* Besuchet, 1964, at that time recently described, and possibly then unknown to Rous. This speculation cannot be tested, since Rudolf Rous died in 2017 (Matějíček 2017) and a substantial part of his collection was sold (J. Matějíček, pers. comm.). However, this speculation has to be taken into account as possible. In any case, Rous (1993) did not list *E. linderi* for Slovakia in his Checklist of Czechoslovak Insects, unlike *E. frater* which he indicated for Slovakia. On the other hand, *E. linderi* was subsequently listed again for Slovakia without any precise data by Löbl (2009) and later also by Jászay & Hlaváč (2016), who adopted this indication from the Catalogues of Palaearctic Coleoptera (Löbl & Besuchet 2004, Schülke & Smetana 2015).

Precise data on *E. frater* for Slovakia gives Kolimár (2000): "Svätý Jur, Šúr National Nature Reserve, 23.ix.1995, R. Kolimár leg. et det.". According to R. Kolimár (pers. comm.), the specimen was a male, and determination was supported by examination of the aedeagus. The material was collected as part of a Ph.D. thesis, but the specimen is not deposited in any collection and is likely lost.

In the light of the information above, it is apparent that published records for *E. linderi* in Slovakia (Roubal 1936, Rous 1967) should refer to the more recently described *E. frater.* No Slovakian specimen of *E. linderi* is known to me and its presence in Slovakia is improbable. The confirmed occurrence of *E. linderi* thus remains restricted to the southern and south-western part of Central Europe, whereas the distribution of *E. frater* comprises the south-eastern part of Central Europe, the Balkan Peninsula, and Turkey.



Figs. 1–3. 1 – *Euplectus frater* Besuchet, 1964, dorsal habitus. Photograph by J. Růžička. 2 – dead plane tree (*Platanus* sp.) in the vicinity of Krongji village (Albania), locality for *E. frater*. 3 – pasture forest near the village of Palasë (Albania), locality for *E. frater*. Both photographs by A. Šíma.
Obr. 1–3. 1 – *Euplectus frater* Besuchet, 1964, celkový habitus. Fotografie J. Růžička. 2 – mrtvý platan (*Platanus* sp.) nedaleko vsi Krongji (Albánie), lokalita *E. frater*. 3 – pastevní les u městečka Palasë (Albánie), lokalita *E. frater*. Obě fotografie A. Šíma.

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SOUHRN

V práci uvádím prvonálezy *Euplectus frater* Besuchet, 1964 pro území Albánie a České republiky. Publikované nálezy *Euplectus linderi* Reitter, 1884 z území Slovenska se ve skutečnosti týkají druhu *E. frater*. Výskyt *E. linderi* na Slovensku není pravděpodobný.