

**The false click beetle *Otho spondyloides* (Coleoptera: Eucnemidae) in Pálava Hills
(South Moravia, Czech Republic)**

**Nález dřevomila *Otho spondyloides* (Coleoptera: Eucnemidae) na Pavlovských vrších
(jižní Morava, Česká republika)**

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Abstract. Herein we report the occurrence of *Otho spondyloides* (Germar, 1818) in Pálava Protected Landscape Area in South Moravia. Two individuals of this species were caught in sticky traps attached to bundles of spruce and beech branches placed in lime-dominated forest of Děvín National Nature Reserve. This is the second record of *O. spondyloides* from the Czech Republic.

INTRODUCTION

Otho spondyloides (Germar, 1818) is a saproxylic species widespread from the Far East to Europe, where it is known from Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Ukraine (Burakowski 1991, Muona 2007). Recent records from Central Europe come from Białowieża Forest in Poland (Byk & Mokrzycki 2007), Visegrád Mountains in Hungary (Németh 2013), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Auenreservat Marchegg in Austria (Vávra et al. 2021), and Pohansko near the confluence of Morava and Dyje rivers in the Czech Republic (Bednařík 2021). The life cycle lasts at least two years, larval development takes place in the wood of broadleaved trees, such as hornbeams (*Carpinus* spp.), poplars (*Populus* spp.), oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and limes (*Tilia* spp.) in the presence of white rot (Burakowski et al. 1985, Vávra et al. 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We report *Otho spondyloides* (Germar, 1818) for the first time from Pálava Protected Landscape Area: Moravia mer., Pavlov env., Děvín National Nature Reserve (7165b), 48°52'21"N 16°38'43"E, 344 m a.s.l., 11.–25.v.2022, 2 spec., L. Drag, C. Sbaraglia & P. Kozel lgt., P. Kozel det. et coll.

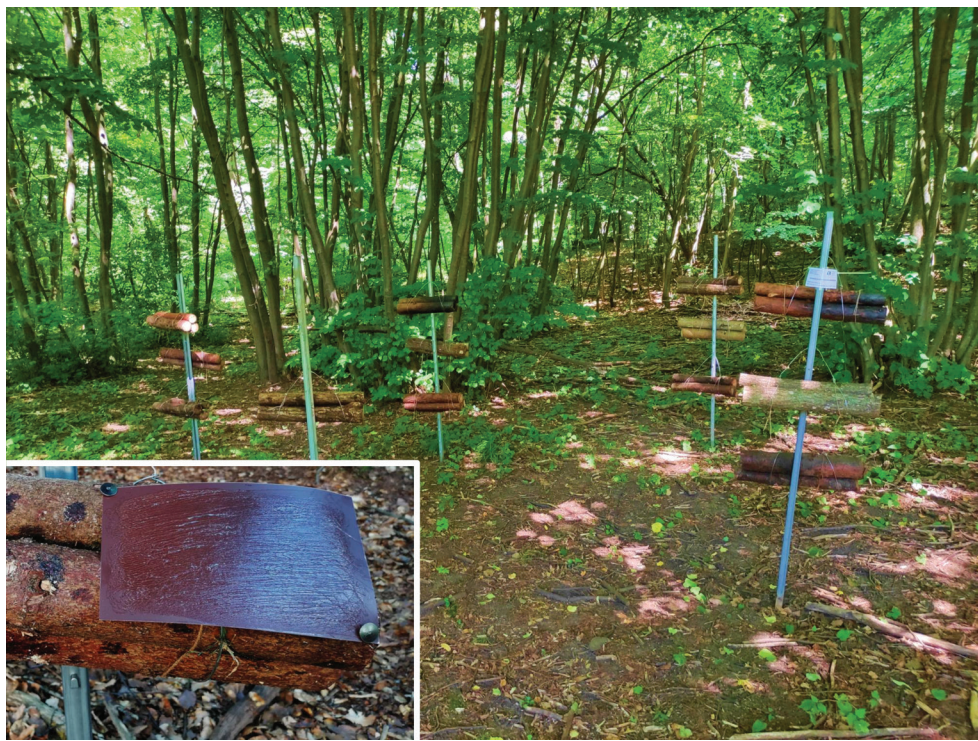


Fig. 1. Exposed wooden bundles during the experiment in Pálava Landscape protected area. Sticky trap installed on the bundles (left down) and forest interior. Photograph by Petr Kozel and Claudio Sbaraglia (15.vi.2022).

Obr. 1. Exponované svazky dřeva během experimentu v CHKO Pálava. Lepová past instalovaná na svazku dřeva (vlevo dole) a interiér lesa. Fotografie Petr Kozel a Claudio Sbaraglia (15.VI.2022).

Two individuals of *Otho spondylioides* were collected using brown paper panels coated with insect glue (sticky traps). The traps were attached to freshly cut branch bundles, each consisting of either spruce (*Picea abies*) or beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) wood. The branches were inoculated with brown-rot fungi (*Fomitopsis pinicola*) and exposed from May to October 2022 in the shady interior of a lime-dominated forest of coppice origin in Děvín National Nature Reserve (Fig. 1).

This is the second finding of *Otho spondylioides* (Fig. 2) in the Czech Republic and the third in the wider area along the lower Morava and Dyje rivers. Saproxyllic beetles, including false click beetles (Eucnemidae), benefit from high volume of dead wood and the presence of various deadwood microhabitats. In Central Europe, these conditions are typical of protected areas or coppiced forests (e.g. Białowieża Forest) (Byk & Mokrzycki 2007, Bednařík 2021). Our finding thus indicates the high conservation value of the studied area.

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Fig. 2. *Otho spondylioides* (Germar, 1818) found in Pálava Landscape protected area. Photograph by Pavel Potocký (11.xii.2023).

Obr. 2. *Otho spondylioides* (Germar, 1818) nalezený v CHKO Pálava. Fotografie Pavel Potocký (11.XII.2023).

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SHRNUTÍ

Dřevomil *Otho spondyloides* (Germar, 1818) se vyskytuje ve střední a východní Evropě a severní Asii (Burakowski 1991, Muona 2007). Recentní nálezy ze střední Evropy pochází z Bělověžského pralesa v Polsku (Byk & Mokrzycki 2007), Visegrádských vrchů v Maďarsku (Németh 2013), WWF Auenreservat Marchegg v Rakousku (Vávra et al. 2021) a z obory Soutok na Břeclavsku (Bednařík 2021). V příspěvku uvádíme nález dvou jedinců *O. spondyloides* v lepoových pastech exponovaných v zapojeném lese s převahou lípy srdčité (*Tilia cordata*) na severním svahu Děvína.