

Acta entomologica serbica, 2013, 18(1/2): 237-240

UDC 595.768.1(497.11)

Short communication

NEW FINDINGS OF *THEOPHILEA SUBCYLINDRICOLLIS* (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) IN SERBIA

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Theophilea subcylindricollis Hladil, 1988 has been recorded in eastern parts of central Europe, namely Kazakhstan, Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania (HOSKOVEC & REJZEK 2009; LÖBL & SMETANA 2010). It is interesting that neither Serbia (PIL & STOJANOVIĆ, 2009) nor the Czech Republic (HOLOMČIK, 2013) are listed in Fauna Europaea (AUDISIO, 2013) although, admittedly, the species was discovered in those two countries only recently.

The first record for Serbia came in 2004 (PIL & STOJANOVIĆ, 2009). So far the species has been recorded in northern Serbia at the Detelinara site in the urban area of the city of Novi Sad, in salty meadows near Okanj Bara (Zrenjanin) and in a wet meadow close to Palić Lake (Subotica) (PIL & PERIĆ, 2012). The only known habitat in the city of Novi Sad used to be a wetland some 40 years ago, but was subsequently dried out (PIL & STOJANOVIĆ, 2009) and finally destroyed (PIL & PERIĆ, 2012).

During an entomological survey in the vicinity of Krupajsko Vrelo near Despotovac (Eastern Serbia) the authors (M.P., N.I. & M.Đ.) encountered one male specimen of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* on May 12, 2013 (Fig. 1). The specimen was photographed, collected and preserved in the third author's (N.I.) personal collection. The adult was resting on *Elymus repens* (L.) Gould, in a large temporary flooded meadow near the Krupajska river. The meadow was used for low intensity agriculture recently, but now looks abandoned, with small shrubs starting to develop. The entire area is a mosaic of different habitats ranging from small agricultural fields and meadows to forests. For its extraordinary hydrological values, the area has been protected since 1979 as the Krupajsko Vrelo Nature Monument (AVRAMOVIĆ *et al.*, 2004).

Only a day later, on May 13, 2013 the first author (M. P.) found the same species in Gamzigradska Banja near Zaječar (Eastern Serbia), in a wet meadow along the Crni Timok river. Only a single specimen was observed and photographed without collecting. The adult was resting on a plant from the family Poaceae, but we lack more detailed identification of the plant species. The habitat could be described as a natural

floodland area and the surrounding landscape resembles the one near Krupajsko Vrelo. Here traditional, low-intensity agriculture is still present, with the landscape being a mosaic of small natural, semi-natural and agricultural patches. Although the insect fauna seems to be very rich (ZEČEVIĆ, 2002; POPOVIĆ, *pers. observ.*), it is severely understudied and thus the area is not protected.



Figure 1. Adult of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* from Krupajsko Vrelo (photo Miloš Popović).

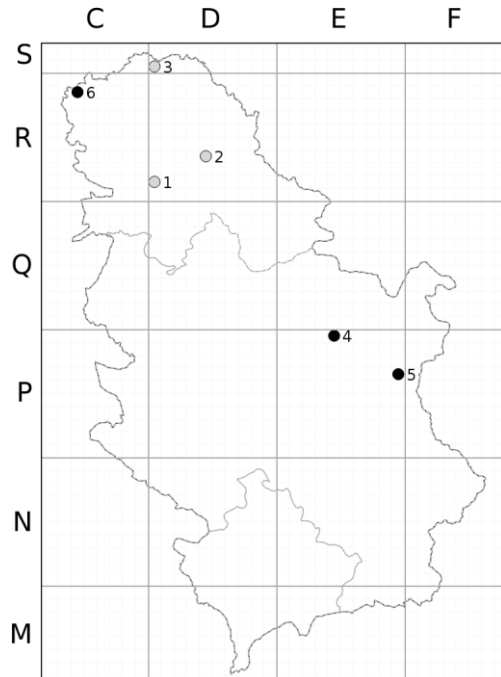


Figure 2. Distribution of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* in Serbia plotted on a standard 100 x 100 km UTM grid map: 1 - Novi Sad, Detelinara (DR01); 2 - Zrenjanin, Okanj Bara (DR43); 3 - Subotica, Palić Lake (DS00); 4 - Despotovac, Krupajsko Vrelo (EP49); 5 - Zaječar, Gamzigradska Banja (EP96); 6 - Sombor, Gakovo (CR48). Grey dots indicate known records, while black ones denote new records.

On May 28, 2013 the second author (J.Š.) recorded one specimen in the village of Gakovo near Sombor (northern Serbia), situated close to the national border of Serbia with Hungary. It was found in the urban area of Gakovo, in a small meadow surrounded by agricultural fields. The specimen was taken from an unidentified plant from the Poaceae family, and photographed without collecting. It is possible that adults were resting on *Hordeum leporinum* Link, the dominant plant species in the meadow.

It was shown that the distribution of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* is tightly correlated with the distribution of Eurasian steppes, where the areas west of the Carpathian Mts. may be partially isolated from the rest of the species area (PIL & PERIĆ, 2012). The new records (Fig. 2) are located at the very border of the steppic

region, but where some steppic elements of flora could still be found (*pers. observ.*). In the light of the new records, it seems that the species primarily inhabits semi-natural meadows and floodlands, where some of its host plants from the Poaceae family grow (see CHEREPANOV, 1990; HORVATOVICH, 1992). Being under high pressure from agriculture and urban development, those habitats are threatened and can easily disappear in the future. On the other hand, the new data have shown that the species is more widespread in Serbia, and thus its survival is more likely. It comes as no surprise that some of the new records originated from the area where agriculture is still traditionally managed and natural habitats were not destroyed so far.

The findings from Krupajsko Vrelo and Gamzigradska Banja represent the southernmost records of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* to date, while the record from Gakovo is very close to the western border of its area. As the species was discovered in Serbia only recently (PIL & STOJANOVIĆ, 2009), further research is needed to establish its exact distribution and get further insight into its ecological preferences. We hope that this result will trigger further surveys, especially outside the Vojvodina Province (northern Serbia), in order to gather more realistic data about the species ecology and distribution.

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НОВИ НАЛАЗИ ВРСТЕ *THEOPHILEA SUBCYLINDRICOLLIS* (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) У СРБИЈИ

МИЛОШ ПОПОВИЋ, ЈЕЛЕНА ШЕАТ, НАСТАС ИЛИЋ И МИЛАН ЂУРИЋ

Извод

У раду су сумирани досадашњи и нови налази *Theophilea subcylindricollis* Hladil, 1988 у Србији. Нови налази употпуњују слику о њеном распрострањењу, али и шире према југу и западу њен ареал који обухвата евроазијске степе. Показало се да је врста раширенија него што се раније знало, али је угрожена услед уништавања станишта која насељава.

Received September 23rd, 2013
Accepted October 21st, 2013