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***Pilemia tigrina* (Mulsant, 1851), new for the fauna of Republic of Moldova
(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)***

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Abstract – *Pilemia tigrina* (Mulsant, 1851) is recorded for the first time from the Republic of Moldova. With one figure.

Key words – Cerambycidae, longicorns, Moldova, Natura 2000, *Pilemia*

INTRODUCTION

Pilemia tigrina (Mulsant, 1851) is a species of longicorn beetles (Cerambycidae), listed in the Annex II of the Habitat Directive (i.e. it is a species of community importance). It is known to occur in the following countries: Bulgaria, Hungary, southern part of European Russia, Armenia, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine (ADLBAUER *et al.* 2010, HOLZSCHUH 1984), European and Asian parts of Turkey (ÖZDIKMEŒEN 2008*a, b*). Monophagous, its only host plant is Barrelier's bugloss or false alkanet, *Anchusa barrelieri* (All.) Vitman (syn. *Cynoglottis barrelieri* (All.) Vural & Kit Tan) (Boraginaceae). The species is considered rare all over its range, and extensively studied in Hungary (CSATHÓ 2009, DANYIK 2011, KOVÁCS 2005).

PILEMIA TIGRINA IN MOLDOVA

A botanical trip to northeastern Romania and the Republic of Moldova was accomplished between 28th April and 12th May, 2008, with participation of three persons, including the author (MOLNÁR *et al.* 2012), preceded by two similar trips (MOLNÁR *et al.* 2007, 2008), to study the steppe and forest steppe vegetation.

* The paper is dedicated to Dr László Móczár, doyen of the Hungarian hymenopterists, celebrating his 100th birthday.

On 8th May, 2008, interesting forest steppe flora was found in the Republic of Moldova, county Hîncești, between Hîncești and Rusca, near 8.500 km of the road R33 (N 46° 51' 50", E 28° 30' 07", 280 m a.s.l.), on the northern verge of the road. *Anchusa barrelieri*, the host plant of *Pilemia tigrina* was also present. Several individuals of *Pilemia tigrina* were observed and photographed (Fig. 1). The beetles stayed on the flowering shoots of the host plant. Three voucher specimens were collected and they are deposited in the Coleoptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Beyond the clearing along both sides of the road woods were seen. These could be regarded as closed forests of the forest steppe consisting mainly of oak (*Quercus petraea* agg.), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* s.l.) and silver lime (*Tilia tomentosa*) (MOLNÁR *et al.* 2012). The flora of the road verge contained a surprisingly high number of species shared with the ancient verges of the loess regions in the Great Hungarian Plain. Apart from *Anchusa barrelieri*, such typical species are *Acer tataricum*, *Ajuga laxmannii*, *Artemisia pontica*, *Astragalus cicer*, *Elymus hispidus*, *Euphorbia salicifolia*, *Hylotelephium maximum*, *Lavatera thuringiaca*, *Nepeta pannonica*, *Peucedanum alsaticum*, *Prunus tenella*, *Ranunculus polyanthemus*, *Rapistrum perenne*, *Rosa gallica*, *Salvia nemorosa*, *S. pratensis*, *S. verticillata*, *Senecio jacobaea*, *Stachys recta*, *Taraxacum serotinum*, *Teucrium chamaedrys*, *Thalictrum minus*, *Verbascum phoeniceum*, *Vinca herbacea* and *Viola ambigua*.

As far as I know this is the first record of *Pilemia tigrina* in the Republic of Moldova. The species is not included in the red list of Moldova (DEDIU 2002), and Moldova is not listed among the countries of occurrence by ADLBAUER *et al.* (2010). CSATHÓ (2009), ÖZDIKMEN & TURGUT (2010) and HEGYESSY & MERKL (2014) mention Moldova, but without exact locality data.

Pilemia tigrina should be included in the Red List of Moldova, and is proposed to pronounce it legally protected in the country.

*

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Fig. 1. *Pilemia tigrina* (Mulsant, 1851) found between Hîncești and Rusca, Republic of Moldova, 8th May, 2008 (photo: A. I. Csathó)

- (New data to the distribution of *Pilemia tigrina* (Mulsant, 1851) in the area of the Körös-Maros National Park (SE Hungary) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). – *Crisicum* 5: 137–145. Online: http://www.csai.hu/publikaciok/2009_CsAI_Pilemia.pdf [Accessed 5 August 2014.]
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