

Brief report

Clambus nigrellus Reitter (Coleoptera: Clambidae), an overlooked beetle species in Finland

Ilpo Mannerkoski

Mannerkoski, I. 2000: *Clambus nigrellus* Reitter (Coleoptera: Clambidae), an overlooked beetle species in Finland. — Entomol. Fennica 11: 229–230.

New records of *Clambus nigrellus* Reitter are presented. All Finnish specimens have been found along small brooks and this is most probably the main habitat for the species. Poor knowledge of the fauna of this habitat and difficulties in species identification indicate that *C. nigrellus* in Finland is an overlooked species rather than an expanding species.

Ilpo Mannerkoski, Finnish Environment Institute, Nature and Land Use Division, P.O. Box 140, FIN-00251 Helsinki, Finland

Received 8 March 1999, accepted 7 March 2000

Clambus nigrellus was recorded for the first time from Finland in 1993 (Mannerkoski & Helve 1994). After that the species was found in three new localities. The data of all Finnish records is as follows (Fig. 1):

1) *St*: Mouhijärvi (6829:285) 29.V.1993 7 exx. I. Mannerkoski leg. and 1 ex. E. Helve leg. Specimens were collected on wet stones and pieces of wood at the water's edge or partly in the water of a rapidly flowing small brook, called Myllyoja. Other species recorded were e.g. *Gnypeta ripicola* (Kiesenwetter), *Thinodromus arcuatus* (Stephens) and *Dianous coeruleus* (Gyllenhal) (Mannerkoski & Helve 1994), all typical species along stony rapids.

2) *N*: Nurmijärvi (6712:379) 21.VI.1995 1 exx. I. Mannerkoski leg. Also here the specimen was found on a wet piece of wood lying partly in the water of a small brook. The brook, Hirrunoja, is not flowing as rapidly as that in Mouhijärvi.

3) *Sa*: Pertunmaa (6807:461) 17.5.-15.6.1997 1 ex. T. Clayhills leg. The specimen was caught with a window trap in a birch dominated forest with large amount of dead wood. The trap was placed on a birch trunk very near a small brook.

4) *N*: Sipoo (6708:402) 23.V.1998 3 exx, I. Mannerkoski leg.; 8.VI.1998 2 exx. I. Mannerkoski leg., 2 exx. E. Helve leg.; 15.VI.1998 10 exx. I. Mannerkoski leg. Most of the specimens were collected from the lower surfaces of the bracket fungi *Fomes fomentarius*, growing on a birch trunk fallen

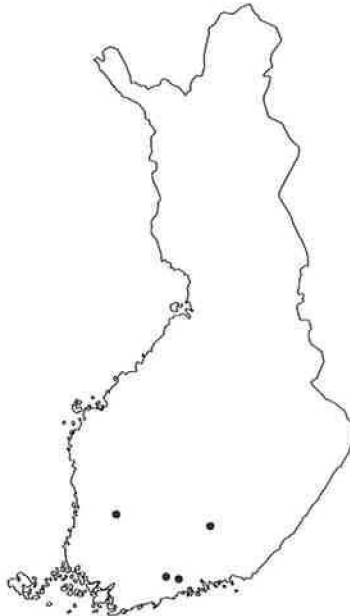


Fig. 1. The distribution of *Clambus nigrellus* in Finland.

over a brook. A couple of individuals were also found on clay-rich soil at the water's edge. The brook Furunäsbäcken, an upper branch of Sipoonjoki, flows through a herb-rich forest. The shores and the bottom are mostly clay without stones. The brook and its surroundings are very much like the brook Hirrunoja in Nurnijärvi, but the brook is larger, 3–4 meters wide. Other rare species found on the shores were e.g. *Bledius defensus* Fauvel and *Brachygluta haematica* (Reichenbach). In the lower vegetation near the brook other rare beetles were caught, e.g. the weevils *Ceutorhynchus pallidicornis* Gougelet & Brisout de Barneville and *Scleropterus serratus* (Germar) (Mannerkoski 2000).

According to Koch (1989) *C. nigrellus* is a hygrophilous species living in moist forests, near rivers and on muddy shores; it is found, for example, among mouldy leaf litter and decaying fungi and in *Carex*-tussocks. Very little else is known of its biology. In Finland it seems to be occurring typically near small brooks, but could possibly be found in other kinds of moist habitats as well. The beetle fauna of brook-shores has not been studied much and maybe this is the main reason for overlooking *C. nigrellus*. Another reason is its small size. Another rare species living in the same kind of habitat, *Gnypeta ripicola*, which was found together with *C. nigrellus* in Mouhijärvi, has also been found in new localities within the last few years.

Among the Finnish species of the genus *Clambus* Fischer von Waldheim, *C. nigrellus* belongs to species with glabrous upper sides. In *C. nigrellus* a line drawn between the angles of the head passes through the eyes, not behind them like in *C. punctulum* (Beck), the most common species of the genus in Finland. From the rare *C. gibbulus* (Le Conte), *C. nigrellus* differs by the long pubescence on the head (no pubescence on *C. gibbulus*) and the male genitalia (Endrödy-Younga 1971). The whole genus is poorly known in Finland. Biström (1978) did not find any *C. nigrellus*-specimens in the material at the Zoological Museum in Helsinki. The reason for the probable overlooking of this species is therefore not likely to be incorrect identification but poorly studied habitats. The other species in this genus are very seldom found in the same kind of habitat as *C. nigrellus*. Since in Swe-

den *C. nigrellus* is recorded from seven districts from Blekinge to Lycksele Lappmark (Lundberg & Gustafsson 1995), its distribution in Finland is probably more extensive than the known records indicate. *C. nigrellus* is also known from Denmark (only Bornholm, Hansen 1996) and Norway, but not from Russian Karelia or the Baltic states (Lundberg & Gustafsson 1995).

Acknowledgements. I am indebted to Tom Clayhills and Eero Helve for the information provided by them on their observations of *C. nigrellus*, to Sirikka-Liisa Peltonen for preparing the figure and to Juha Siitonen and one anonymous referee for their comments on the manuscript.

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