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SHORT NOTES

CAMILLO CUSIMANO, GIULIANO CERASA, GABRIELLA LO VERDE & BRUNO MASSA

OZOGNATHUS CORNUTUS (LECONTE, 1859) (*Coleoptera Anobiidae*), NEW RECORD FOR ITALY

Prima segnalazione di Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859) (Coleoptera Anobiidae) in Italia

Material examined: Sicily, Palermo, Parco d'Orléans 17.VIII.2011 (2♂); same locality 21.VIII.2011 (1♂) (with suction trap); Campania, Portici (NA) 28.II.2011 (1♂), C. Labriola.

The genus *Ozognathus* has Nearctic and Neotropical distribution (WHITE, 1974), and currently includes twelve described species (ZAHRADNIK & MIFSUD, 2005). *O. cornutus* has been recently reported from New Zealand (El-Sayed & Suckling, 2004 in BERCEDO *et al.*, 2005) and from the Palaearctic Region, Madeira Island, Malta, Tunisia (ZAHRADNIK & MIFSUD, 2005) and Spain (BERCEDO *et al.*, 2005). Further records from Germany and France concern specimens obtained from dry fruit, but not collected in the field (ALLEMAND *et al.*, 2008).

In February 2011 a specimen of *O. cornutus* was collected by chance in Campania (C. Labriola, *pers. comm.*); in addition, in August 2011, during researches carried out in the Department of Agriculture and Forest Sciences (Parco d'Orléans, Palermo, Sicily) with a suction trap, further three males were collected. Thus, we consider that this species may have spread in South Italy.

In North America it was found in dry material of *Persea americana* Mill., from *Baccharis ptilularis* D. Candolle (Asteraceae), in galls formed by Lepidoptera Gelechiidae belonging to the genus *Gnorimoschema*, in galls of *Andricus quercuscalifornicus* Basset, 1881 (where it was the most common late stage inquiline). and from pine bark (WHITE, 1974; JOSEPH *et al.*, 2011), while in Spain (Cadiz Province) the species was reared from plant material of *Ficus carica*, *Phoenicium vulgare*, *Quercus suber*, *Retama monosperma*, *Scolymus hispan-*



Fig. 1 — Characters of one male of *Ozognathus cornutus* collected in Sicily in 2011.

icus and *Carduus* spp. (BERCEDO *et al.*, 2005). In spite of the highly polyphagous habits of *O. cornutus*, no economic damages were reported after its introduction in Spain (BERCEDO *et al.*, 2005).

However, the present European records of this species can be considered as accidental and mainly due to international commercial exchanges, leading to suppose that further specific researches will show a wider distribution.

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Address of the Authors — C. CUSIMANO, G. CERASA, G. LO VERDE, B. MASSA, Dipartimento di Scienze agrarie e forestali, Viale Scienze, 13 - 90128 Palermo (I)