TWO SPECIES OF ANTHOCORIDAE ON PINUS NIGRA NEW TO CROATIA

GIUSEPPE TESCARI

CESAB Centro Studi Area Berica, Via San Bernardino 38, 36057 Arcugnano (VI), Italy (E-mail: giutesca@tin.it)


The presence of two Anthocoridae (Insecta: Heteroptera) species new to Croatia is recorded: *Elatophilus (Euhadrocerus) crassicornis* and *Cardiastethus nazarenus*. Both were captured on the island of Cres on *Pinus nigra*.

**Key Words**: Heteroptera, Anthocoridae, *Pinus nigra*, Croatia

INTRODUCTION

During research carried out in the *Pinus nigra* Arnold stands of the islands of Croatia, particularly Cres, I found some Anthocoridae (Hemiptera-Heteroptera) species that have not to date been reported from Croatia. The capture of a considerable number of *Elatophilus (Euhadrocerus) crassicornis* (Reuter, 1875) (Fig. 1), a species typical of the western part of the Mediterranean basin, was particularly interesting. The presence of *Cardiastethus nazarenus* Reuter, 1884, was reported by Stichel (1959), but only in general terms and with no geographical or collection reference.
Eight female specimens were collected on the Cres (Stivan, 27.06.2002; Martinšćica, 02.07.2003, 01.09.2005, 03.09.2005, 01.09.2006 (4 ex.)). Due to its antenna structure (with the second element strongly compressed at the elliptic section) this taxon is placed in the subgenus *Euhadrocerus* Reuter 1884, neither species nor capture of which have been reported in the Adriatic or Balkans (PÉRICART, 1972; Protić, 1998). Moreover, the total dimensions and the length of the rostrum identify the specimens collected as the species *E. crassicornis*.

However, it has to be mentioned that some biometrical differences exist between the measurements of the specimens from Croatia and the published values (PÉRICART, 1968; 1972), confirmed by an examination of a female in the Natural History Museum of Genoa. In particular, the individuals examined have the following differences with respect to the others: third element of the rostrum shorter than the first; second element of the antennas five times longer than its maximum width.
and never longer than 1.2 times the diatone, the scutellum always higher than the
diatone. In any case, this series of morphological (biometrical) differences is part of
the normal variance of this species (A. CARAPEZZA; J. PÉRICART, pers. comm.).

The importance of this report is in the widening of the distribution area of the
species to the Adriatic area and in the relatively constant presence of this species,
which has always been believed to be rather rare.

Collecting was carried out by sampling the foliage of the Pinus nigra trees or by
collecting specimens that had fallen from it.

**CARDIASTETHUS NAZARENUS**

The C. nazarenus individuals were captured together with the aforementioned E.
crassicornis individuals on Pinus nigra foliage. The individuals were two males of
1.95 and 1.80 mm. (Martinščica, 01.09.2005; 01.09.2006). Some branches of the Pinus
sampled showed the discrete presence of lichens typical of the bark.

The C. nazarenus was presumed to be present in the territory of Croatia: STICHEL
(1959) had indicated the presence of this anthocorid in a generic manner without,
however, indicating precise related data (»Jugoslawien«). PÉRICART (1972) himself
reports this same situation; PROTIĆ (1998), in her catalogue, does not mention the
taxon in the territory of ex-Yugoslavia. Finally, GOGALA (2004) reports its presence
in Slovenia, the first confirmation for the upper Eastern Adriatic area.

Therefore, this new record corroborates the Northern Mediterranean distribution
of this interesting and localized anthocorid.

The analysis (still partial) of the Heteroptera fauna that populates the Pinus nigra
stands of Cres has led to the identification of very interesting taxa, both from the
distributional and the ecological point of view. After the first report in Croatia
(TESCARI, 2004) of Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann, a neartic coreid in a full
phase of expansion in Europe, I was able to identify it on Cres seven times more
during 2006, always on Pinus nigra.

Elatophilus (Euhadrocerus) crassicornis, Cardiastethus nazarenus and Leptoglossus
occidentalis, therefore, represent entities well established in the studied territory
even though they are reported as rare or as a first sighting. The faunistic richness of
an insular territory is well highlighted by these first results, obtained through re-
search aimed at only one arboreal species.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I wish to thank A. Carapezza and J. Péricart for confirmation of the determination
of E. crassicornis, E. Heiss for assistance and C. Hancock for checking the draft.
A special mention goes to Dr. R. Poggi of the A. Doria Museum of Genoa who en-
abled me to examine a specimen of E. crassicornis deposited in the collections of
that museum.

Received February 25, 2008
REFERENCES


