

SHORT
COMMUNICATIONS

On Establishing of Two Weevils (Coleoptera, Curculionidae: Entiminae) Damaging Fruit and Berry Crops in Southeastern Kazakhstan

S. V. Kolov^a and B. A. Korotyayev^b

^aInstitute of Zoology, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Almaty, 050060 Kazakhstan
e-mail: microdera@gmail.com

^bZoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 199034 Russia
e-mail: korotyay@rambler.ru

Received December 7, 2016

Abstract—Data on the occurrence of two Eastern European weevils, *Urometopus nemorum* L. Arn. and *Otiorhynchus albidus* Stierl., in Southeastern Kazakhstan are reported. Both species are represented in Kazakhstan by parthenogenetic forms and damage cultivated and wild strawberry (*Urometopus nemorum*) and cherries (*Otiorhynchus albidus*). The species are apparently recent invaders and appeared in Kazakhstan in the early XXI century.

DOI: 10.1134/S0013873817030149

Urometopus nemorum L. Arnoldi, 1965

Material. Kazakhstan. Southeastern Kazakhstan, *Almaty Province*: Zailiyskiy Alatau, 8 km W of Issyk City, H = 864 m, under stone with *Lasius niger* ants, 1–2.V.2011 (S.V. Kolov), 4 ♀; Almaty env., Aksay Gorge, 1030 m, on strawberry, 12.IV and 2.V.2015 (S.V. Kolov), 4 ♀ (S.V. Kolov); Dzhungar Alatau Mts., ~ 8 km SW of Amanbokter, H = 1303 m, on *Fragaria vesca* L., 12.VI.2015 (S.V. Kolov), 1 ♀; 14 km S of Amanbokter, H = 1702 m, on *F. vesca*, 8–10.VI.2016 (S.V. Kolov), 4 ♀.

Distribution. Ukraine, the European part of Russia from the south of the middle zone to Crimea and the piedmont part of the Northern Caucasus.

All the beetles were collected in the Zailiyskiy and Dzungar Ala Tau mountain ranges in the piedmont and low-mountain belts on the pine strawberry usually cultivated there and in the mid-mountain belt on the wild-growing strawberry.

The adults are active since early spring; their density in the Aksai Gorge reaches 10 individuals per 1 m²; the beetles frequently occur in ant galleries under stones. The record of this species from the Sarkand River gorge on the wild-growing strawberry demonstrates a successful adaptation of the species to not only agrocenoses but also to natural habitats of its host plant.

Records of *Urometopus nemorum* in other areas of Kazakhstan also cannot be ruled out because of the practice to propagate the strawberry by planting the root runners together with soil which may contain eggs, larvae, or adults of this parthenogenetic weevil.

The second author found adult *U. nemorum* in the 1990s in Krasnodar among the strawberry fruits bought in the local market. Other small litter weevils of the subfamily Entiminae, in particular, common European species of the genus *Exomias* Bedel (formerly attributed to the genus *Barypeithes* Jacq. du Val) rather frequently occur among new-gathered berries. In the summer of 2016, I.S. Smirnov (the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, = ZIN) collected a long series of *Exomias trichopterus* (Gautier) in the environs of St. Petersburg in the crop of the raspberry and strawberry from a garden plot. At the beginning of the 1990s, this species was recorded as a pest of the black chokeberry in Lithuania (after Dieckmann, 1980). A series of *Exomias pellucidus* (Boheman) was collected by the second author in the summer of 2015 in Zelenogorsk near St. Petersburg, in a garden plot near the strawberry beds.

Otiorhynchus albidus Stierlin, 1861

Material. Kazakhstan. Southeastern Kazakhstan, *Almaty Province*, 4 km NW of Chemolgan railway station, H = 707 m, on *Cerasus cerasus* L. and *C. avium* L., 1.V.2016 (M.K. Childebaev), 2 ♀.

Distribution. Southeastern Europe as far to the east as Ukraine (Magnano and Alonso-Zarazaga, 2013) and Crimea (Yunakov, 2003).

The beetles damage the cherry and sweet cherry in a suburban settlement, feeding on the buds and leaves; the pest density reaches 40 individuals per tree. This species probably have been recently introduced to Kazakhstan, as no beetles were found on the fruit-trees (plum, cherry, and sweet cherry) in the foothills of the Zailiiskiy Ala Tau (about 25–30 km S of the place *O. albidus* was collected) and in the environs of Boraldai Village (22 km E).

The bisexual form of *O. albidus* is known only from the Crimea; it was described from there as a distinct species (Yunakov, 2006). Most likely, this species is spreading to the east, most likely as the result of unintended introductions. On June 13, 1987, six specimens of *O. albidus* were collected by the second author from plantings of *Pinus sylvestris* in the environs of Gulkevichi Village in the east of Krasnodar Territory, but the species still has not become common in the Northwestern Caucasus. In particular, it has not been found on the Taman' Peninsula where the forest stands were regularly inspected by B.A. Korotyaev from the end of the XX century to 2013. Two records from Stavropol Territory are known: Kislovodsk, Nizhniy (= Lower) Park, a nest of the blackbird, 24.VIII.2006 (V. Telpova), 1 ♀ (Makarov, 2007); Kislovodsk, 900 m, 24.IV.2004 (A.V. Kiselev), 1 ♀ (ZIN collection).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

S.V. Kolov is grateful to M.K. Childebaev (Institute of Zoology, Almaty) for granting the material of *Otio-*

rhynchus albidus. B.A. Korotyaev is grateful to I.S. Smirnov (ZIN) who collected a long series of *Exomias trichopterus* and to K.V. Makarov (Moscow Pedagogical State University) for supplying the data on the specimen of *Otiorhynchus albidus* posted by him in the photograph on the Internet portal of ZIN.

B.A. Korotyaev's study is performed within the framework of the state projects nos. 01201351189 and 01201351183 ZIN RAS and was financially supported by the Russian Foundation for Basic Research (grant no. 16-04-00412).

REFERENCES

1. Dieckmann, L., "Beiträge zur Insektenfauna der DDR: Coleoptera–Curculionidae (Brachycerinae, Otiorhynchinae, Brachyderinae)," *Beiträge zur Entomologie* **30**, 145–310 (1980).
2. Magnano, L. and Alonso-Zarazaga, M.A., "Tribe Otiorhynchini Schoenherr, 1826," in *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Curculionoidea II. Vol. 8*, Ed. by Löbl, I. and Smetana, A. (Brill, Leiden, 2013), pp. 302–347.
3. Makarov, K.V., "The Weevil *Otiorhynchus albidus* Stierlin, 1861," https://www.zin.ru/Animalia/Coleoptera_rus/otialbkm.htm, 2007.
4. Yunakov, N.N., "The Weevils of the Subfamily Entiminae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) of Ukraine," Abstract of Candidate's Dissertation in Biology (Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 2003).
5. Yunakov, N.N., "New Synonyms in the Entiminae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)," *Zoosystematica Rossica* **14** (2), 263–265 (2006).