

***Arocatus longiceps* STÅL in the Czech Republic too (Lygaeidae, Heteroptera)**

JAROSLAV L. STEHLÍK¹ & KAREL HRADIL²

¹Moravian Museum, Department of Entomology, Hviezdoslavova 29a, 627 00 Brno, Czech Republic

²Forestry and Game Management Research Institute, Department of Forest Protection, Jiloviště-Strnady,
156 04 Praha 5-Zbraslav, Czech Republic

STEHLÍK J. L. & HRADIL K. 2000: *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL in the Czech Republic too (Lygaeidae, Heteroptera). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **85**: 351–353. – First find of *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL in Moravia and Bohemia. New species for the Czech Republic. Biological notes on this species.

Key words: Heteroptera, Lygaeidae, Lygaeinae, *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL, Czech Republic

Introduction

The pontomediterranean species *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL, not known from Central Europe until 1995, suddenly started to expand northwards into this region and within a short period it was to be found in three Central European states. This species lives on plane trees, among which the research took place to document its presence in the Czech Republic.

The species *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL was identified by J. Stehlík; other species in the communities of Heteroptera and Coleoptera were identified by K. Hradil. All the material is deposited in the collection of K. Hradil.

Results

Moravia merid.: Lednice (7166), castle park, 29.xii.1999 4♂, 10♀, together with other species of Heteroptera: *Scolopostethus pictus* (SCHILLING), *Rhyparochromus alboacuminatus* (GOEZE), *Orsillus depressus* (MULSANT & REY), *Corythucha ciliata* (SAY), *Physatocheila dumedorum* (HERRICH-SCHAEFFER), *Deraeocoris lutescens* (SCHILLING), *Anthocoris confusus* (REUTER). Coleoptera present: *Dromius agilis* (FABRICIUS), *Dromius quadrimaculatus* (LINNAEUS) and *Philorhizus spilotus* (ILLIGER).
Moravia merid.: Břeclav (7267), náměstí 28. října Square, 29.xii.1998 2♀, together with other three species of Heteroptera: *Corythucha ciliata* (SAY), *Scolopostethus pictus* (SCHILLING), *Anthocoris confusus* (REUTER).

Bohemia centr.: Prague-Vrchlického sady Public gardens (5952), 12.ii.1999 1♂, 1♀, together with other two species of Heteroptera: *Rhyparochromus alboacuminatus* (GOEZE), *Scolopostethus pictus* (SCHILLING).

Discussion

The same accompanying species of the studied species [except *Orsillus depressus* (MULSANT & REY) and *Anthocoris confusus* (REUTER)] were found by RABITSCH (1998) in Austria. It shows *Scopolostethus pictus* is not limited only to moist places, as maintained to date in the literature and referred to by STEHLÍK & VAVŘINOVÁ (1998) and RABITSCH (1998). The research revealed other centres of occurrence of the plane pest *Corythucha ciliata* (SAY) in South Moravia. All species were caught on plane trees *Platanus hispanica* MILL. (= *P. acerifolia*, *P. hybrida*, *P. occidentalis* × *P. orientalis*). According to PÉRICART (1998) adults and nymphs of *Arocatus longiceps* (STÅL) suck seeds and young leaves. They mate in May and young adults can be found in July. In June and July they accumulate in quantity on the fruit of plane trees. In favourable years they may have two generations. Among the offspring of the second generation, which hibernate, adults may be seen in September or October.

The species is known through PÉRICART (1998) from the Apennine Peninsula (inclusive of Sicily), Balkan Peninsula (Slovenia, Macedonia, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece inclusive of Crete), Turkey, Cyprus, European part of Russia (Daghestan), Ukraine (the Crimea), Azerbaijan, Israel, and Iran. In recent years it has also been found in Central Europe, in Austria by ADLBAUER & FRIESS (1996), RABITSCH (1998), in Germany (Baden-Württemberg) by RIEGER (1998), RIETSCHEL (1998) and in Hungary by KONDOROSY (1997).

This species varies considerably and several infraspecific units have been described that lack taxonomical value. The specimens captured have altogether light antennae (sometimes the second and the third antennal segments are brown or black (4 specimens). Occasionally, a specimen with black antennae may be found in the material. Only two specimens had black legs. The ventral surface is sometimes red. RIETSCHEL (1998) is the only author to mention a variability of the sternum. He records that the mesoepisternum can be brown or black. In the case of one specimen, which had black legs as well, the pro-, meso- and metaepisternum were black, sharply contrasting with a light supracoxal lobe and orificium. The epimerons are brighter, the third especially so. The other specimens, which also had bright legs and antennae, had sterna as an alternative to this colouring.

Summary

In recent years we have seen a broadening of the range of some species of Lygaeidae of southern origin into Central Europe [*Arocatus longiceps* STÅL, *Orsillus depressus* (MULSANT & REY), *Oxycarenus lavatae* (FABRICIUS)], perhaps due to global warming. It therefore becomes necessary to pay particular attention to this question, since harmful species can expand together with harmless species onto the territory of this state.

Arocatus longiceps STÅL

Souhrn

Pontomediterranní druh *Arocatus longiceps* STÅL, který do roku 1995 nebyl znám ze střední Evropy, začal rozšiřovat svůj areál směrem na sever a během krátké doby byl nalezen ve třech státech střední Evropy (Rakousku, Německu, Maďarsku). Nově se nám podařilo prokázat jeho výskyt jak na Moravě, tak v Čechách. Druh žije na *Platanus hispanica* MILL., na kterém vysává hlavně semena, a zimuje pod kůrou téhož stromu, kde byl také sbírán.

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