

THE FIRST RECORD OF FLEA BEETLE *ARGOPUS NIGRITARSIS* (GEBLER, 1823) (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE) IN BALTIC AND FENNOSCANDIAN FAUNA OF LATVIA

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Abstract. The flea beetle *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler, 1823) is reported for the first time from Latvia. One specimen of this species was found in Rēzekne district Puša (eastern Latvia). This species is new for the Baltic and Fennoscandian fauna. The general information on its distribution and biology is given.

Key words: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, *Argopus nigratarsis*, Latvia

INTRODUCTION

The first data about the leaf-beetle species of the subfamily Alticinae Newman, 1834 in the Latvian fauna were published in the following works (Fischer 1784, 1791; Seidlitz 1887–1891).

Some publications are specially devoted to the study of the Latvian fauna of flea beetles (Pūtele 1970a, b, 1971a, b). In 1993 the monograph ‘The beetles of Eastern Latvia’ by A. Barševskis containing data about 15 genera and 61 species of the Alticinae subfamily was published. Faunistic data on flea beetles of Latvia can also be found in some articles (Pūtele 1974; Bukejs & Telnov 2007; and others). The Latvian fauna of leaf-beetles of the subfamily Alticinae Newman, 1834 comprises 133 species and 18 genera (Silfverberg 2004; Telnov 2004; Telnov *et al.* 2007). 105 species and 17 genera of flea beetles have been reported from Lithuania (Pileckis & Monsevičius 1997; Silfverberg 2004), 126 species and 19 genera from Belarus (Lopatin & Nesterova 2005), 94 species and 17 genera from Estonia (Silfverberg 2004).

The genus *Argopus* Fischer, 1824 numbers 30 species, which occur in the Palaearctic and Oriental regions. Four species are known in Europe (Gruev & Döberl 1997; Warchalowski 2003). So far only one species of *Argopus* Fisch, i.e. *Argopus ahrensi* (Germar, 1817), has been recorded in the Latvian fauna of beetles (Pūtele 1971a; Telnov *et al.* 1997; Telnov 2004). Recently *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler, 1823) has been found in Latvia. The same two species of this genus have been recorded in Belarus: (Lopatin & Nesterova 2005). Only the species *Argopus ahrensi* (Germar, 1817) is mentioned (Silfverberg 2004) in the catalogue ‘Enumeratio nova Coleopterorum Fennoscandiae, Daniae et Baltiae’ by H. Silfverberg.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material and locality (Fig. 1): Latvia, Rēzekne district, Puša, 25 May 2002. (1 specimen, ♂) leg. A. Barševskis. The examined material is stored in Daugavpils University Institute of Systematic Biology (DUBC).



Figure 1. Locality of *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler) in Latvia: Puša.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study of the Latvian fauna of leaf-beetles, the flea beetle species *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler, 1823) was recorded for the first time.

Argopus nigratarsis (Gebler, 1823) is distributed in Eastern Europe (Hungary, Poland, Belarus, Slovakia, Ukraine), Kazakhstan, Siberia, Mongolia, China (Hubei, Chekiang, Kiangsi, Fukien, Hopeh, Szechuan, Shansi, Shensi), Taiwan, Korea, the Far East, Primorye and Japan (Bieńkowski 2004; Gruev & Döberl 1997; Lopatin & Nesterova 2005; Warchalowski 2003). The species is also reported from Leningrad province (Rus-

sia) (Romantsov 2007). Thus, the record of the species in Latvia extends its distribution range.

The imago of *Argopus* Fisch. occurs mostly on herbs. Larvae develop within leaf mines and pupate in soil (Bieńkowski 2004). *Argopus nigratarsis* occurs on *Pulsatilla* (Lopatin & Nesterova 2005) and *Adonis*, *Clematis*, *Phytolacea* (Bieńkowski 2004). Specimens are caught in June (Lopatin & Nesterova 2005) and July (Romantsov 2007).

Argopus nigratarsis (Gebler, 1823) (Figs 2, 3) clearly differs from other European species of *Argopus* Fisch. The fourth antennomere is approximately as long as the 5th one and is considerably longer than the 3rd one. The anterior margin of clypeus is deeply emarginate. The upper side of mid- and hind-tibia is without a furrow, but with a narrow longitudinal mid ridge. The body is rufous with 4th–11th antennomers, tibiae and tarsi (in paler specimens tarsi only) are pitchy or black. The

body length is 3.6–4.2 mm (Bieńkowski 2004; Warchalowski 2003), and that of the examined specimen measures 3.61 mm.

Argopus nigratarsis (Gebler, 1823) is reported to be a new species for Latvia as well as for the Baltic and Fennoscandian fauna.

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Figure 2. *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler): habitus.



Figure 3. *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler): aedeagus in lateral (A) and dorsal (B) aspects.

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PIRMIEJI DUOMENYS IŠ LATVIJOS APIE SPRAGĘ *ARGOPUS NIGRITARSIS* (GEBLER, 1823) (COLEOPTERA, CHRYSOMELIDAE) BALTIJOS IR FENOSKANDIJOS FAUNOJE

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SANTRAUKA

Latvijoje spragė *Argopus nigratarsis* (Gebler, 1823) užfiksuota pirmą kartą. Vienas šios rūšies individas buvo aptiktas Pušoje, Rezeknės rajone (Rytų Latvija). Ši rūšis yra nauja Baltijos ir Fennoscandijos šalių faunai. Pateikiama bendra informacija apie rūšies paplitimą ir biologiją.

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