

NOTES ON THE ENDEMIC FOR THE CAUCASUS
LONGICORN BEETLES SPECIES - MORIMONELLA
BEDNARIKI PODANY
(CERAMBYCIDAE, LAMIINAE: MORIMONELLINI)

ЗАМЕТКИ ОБ ЭНДЕМИЧНОМ ДЛЯ КАВКАЗА
ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЕ
ЖУКОВ-ДРОВОСЕКОВ - MORIMONELLA BEDNARIKI
PODANY
(CERAMBYCIDAE, LAMIINAE: MORIMONELLINI)

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ABSTRACT

Details of biology of the endemic for the Caucasus species *Morimonella bednariki* are described and illustrated.

РЕЗЮМЕ

Приводятся особенности биологии эндемичного для Кавказа *Morimonella bednariki* в сопровождении серии иллюстраций.

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Studies of recently described *Morimonella bednariki* Podany, 1979 (Figs 1-2) have particular interest, since it is known to be one of not so numerous endemics of the West Caucasus, belonging to monotypical genus and tribe with highly peculiar morphological characters.

Data on larval (Figs 3-4) and pupal (Figs 5-6) morphology and some principle biological characters of *M. bednariki* were given by me earlier (Miroshnikov, 1990).

During subsequent studies, I have found it repeatedly in different forest sites, as in previously known locality Mt. Shchiotka, so in different new ones near Mts Indiuk and Semashkho (Tuapse district). In all cases, it occurred only on wild cherry-trees (*Cerasus*). Obviously, it must be regarded as the main fodder wood of larvae of *M. bednariki*, while its occurrence on different woods (i. e. hornbeam, in accordance with observations by Dr. N. Nikitsky: Miroshnikov, 1990) takes place quite occasionally.

This species inhabits forest sites with different tree densities, though prefers more dense forests. Wild cherry trees, affected by *M. bednariki*, are observed as in deciduous, so mixed forest plots with presence of the Caucasian fir (Figs 6, 7). Sections and density of beetle populations on the trees are also variable. Sometimes wild cherry trunks are populated nearly from root to top (only 1.5 – 2 upper meters remain unaffected). Such a tree (22 m long and 35 cm base diameter) is illustrated at Figs 7, 9. Places with larval galleries (Figs 10, 11) and pupa inside pupal cradle (Fig. 13) are also presented. Trees affected by this species often perform characteristic bark damage (Fig. 12), more or less strongly disclosing larval galleries. Such symptoms indicate solid probability of occurrence of *M. bednariki*.

As I have noted earlier (Miroshnikov, 1990), pupation of *M. bednariki* is observed in May, in hot springs it takes place in late April, approximately coinciding with mass florescence of the forest pear and wild cherry. However, according to my further investigations, during lengthy and cold early spring periods, pupation may take place even at April 20-23, but before mass florescence of the mentioned above trees (observed on several trees in 1997).

Besides hitherto known longicorn beetles species, affecting cherries together with *M. bednariki* (*Rhagium fasciculatum*, *Saperda scalaris*, *Mesosa nebulosa*, *Morimus verecundus*), some new ones, namely *Cerambyx scopolii* and *Leipopus femoratus*, were recorded. The most common species, inhabiting cherries together with *M. bednariki*, is *S. scalaris*.

Noteworthy, in spite of numerous attempts, involving hundred of settlements of *M. bednariki* in different conditions and years (1986 – 1997), I was unable till now to find out larvae, affected by parasitic insects. Basing on such abundant material on different stages of *M. bednariki* and our previous experience, this fact seems to be quite unusual.

REFERENCES

- Miroshnikov A.I. 1990. [To the knowledge of longicorn beetles (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) of the Caucasus. 1] // Entomol. Obozr., 69, 1, p. 84-92 (in Russian).



Figs 1-6. *Morimonella bednariki*:
1. Male. 2. Female. 3-4. Larva. 5-6. Pupa.



Fig. 7



Fig.9



Fig.12



Fig. 11



Fig.10



Fig.13



Fig. 8

Fig. 7. Dry tree of wild cherry (foreground) populated by *Morimonella bednariki* (North-West Caucasus, Mt Shchiotka, April 1997).

Fig. 8. Lifeless hanging wild cherry tree, populated by *Morimonella bednariki* (North-West Caucasus, Mt Shchiotka, April 1997).

Fig. 9. Dry wild cherry tree (left), populated by *Morimonella bednariki* (North-West Caucasus, Mt Shchiotka, April 1997).

Fig. 10. Larval gallery of *Morimonella bednariki* in wild cherry tree.

Fig. 11. Larval galleries of *Morimonella bednariki* in wild cherry tree.

Fig. 12. Bark damage of wild cherry tree, populated by *Morimonella bednariki*.

Fig. 13. Pupa of *Morimonella bednariki* in pupal cradle in wild cherry wood.