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On biology of *Lixus albomarginatus* Boh. (Col., Curculionidae)

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Abstract

In the coastal regions of the Southern Ukraine adults of *Lixus albomarginatus* Boh. feed on *Cakile euxina* Pobed. (Brassicaceae). Preimaginal development occurs in the same plants.

1 Introduction

Lixus albomarginatus (BOHEMANN 1836) belongs to the group of species revised by L. DIECKMANN who summarized all known information about distribution and biology of this species (DIECKMANN, 1980, 1983).

L. albomarginatus is widespread species. Its area includes whole Europe beside North (the northern point of its location is in Lithuania [PILECKIS, 1976]), North Africa, Caucasus, Middle Asia, Middle East, West Siberia. It was reported (see DIECKMANN, *ibid.*) that adult of this species feeds on *Reseda* spp. and some Brassicaceae but data about its preimaginal development were unknown.

There are two reports about life cycle of "*Lixus ascanii*" (ROMANOVA, 1928) and "*Lixus ascanii* var. *albomarginatus*" (SAKHAROV, 1947). But now, after DIECKMANN's work (1980) it's difficult to determine to what species – *L. albomarginatus* or *L. ochraceus* Boh. – these data may be applied (both "*Lixus*" are sympatric).

2 Methods and material

This brief report are chiefly based on the direct field observations that were conducted in Obitochnaya spit (Sea of Azov, the South of Zaporozhye region) in summer 1983. State museum and private entomological collections were used to establish the phenology of *L. albomarginatus*.

3 Results and discussion

In the Obitochnaya spit life cycle of *L. albomarginatus* is connected with *Cakile euxina* Pobed. (Brassicaceae). Adults feed on leaves and oviposit in stems of *C. euxina*.

Developing larvae burrow the tunnels within host stems. Little by little larvae go down, pass from secondary stems to the main stem and usually reach the lowest parts of stem or root collar. Occasionally larvae were found in a root, 1.5–2 cm below ground level. Sometimes I observed two parallel tunnels in the same stem. The walls of the larval tunnels have coal-black colour, here

and there tunnel is blocked by plunks from the brown plant dust and probably feces.

Pupation occurs in the cell with hard walls. Pupae and young adults always are settled with their heads up. Preimaginal development is finished in late August.

Larvae make damage facilitate the brake of host at the root collar. It helps to adults to go out. In the deserted cells there were found wood-louses (Oniscoidea), mites (Acariformes), darkling beetle, *Gonocephalum pusillum* F. (Tenebrionidae), small Carabidae.

Imagines hibernate out of host plants. To all appearance weevils hibernate in the plant litter or upper layers of the ground. Undoubtedly adults migrate to another habitat because *C. euxina* withers and breaks in September, littoral sands where they vegetate are poured by water, especially at the period of heavy autumn gales.

All specimens *L. albomarginatus* from Ukrainian steppe (n = 45) were found between 24 April (Izjum, Char-kow region) and 29 September (Jankoj, North Crimea).

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