

***Cryptocephalus ochroleucus* Fairmaire, 1859 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae): A New Leaf-Beetle Species for the Lithuanian Fauna**

Andris BUKEJS¹

Romas FERENCA²

¹Institute of Systematic Biology, Daugavpils University, Vienības 13, LV-5401 Daugavpils, LATVIA, e-mail: carabidae@inbox.lv

²Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas zoological museum, Laisves al. 106, LT-44253 Kaunas, LITHUANIA, email: entomol@zoomuziejus.lt

²Nature Research Centre, Institute of Ecology, Akademijos 2, LT-08412 Vilnius, LITHUANIA e-mail: agagutta@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

A chrysomelid species, *Cryptocephalus (Burlinius) ochroleucus* Fairmaire, 1859 is reported for the first time from Lithuania. A single specimen of this species was collected in Juodkrantė, Curronian Spit (SW Lithuania). The species is also new for the Eastern Baltic region and Fennoscandia. General information on distribution and bionomy of the species is given.

Key words: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, *Cryptocephalus ochroleucus*, Lithuania, first record.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Cryptocephalus* Geoffroy, 1762 is a cosmopolitan taxon with more than 1500 species (Warchałowski, 1999). There are 398 species known in the Palearctic region (Lopatin and Dovgailo, 2002). At present, 83 species are reported in eastern Europe (Bieńkowski, 2004). Of these, 40 species are known in the eastern Baltic region (Silfverberg, 2004). A total of 42 species of *Cryptocephalus* have been reported from Belarus (Lopatin and Nesterova, 2005), 28 species from Estonia (Silfverberg, 2004), 31 species from Latvia (Bukejs, 2010), 29 species from the Kaliningrad region (W Russia) (Alekseev, 2003; Bukejs and Alekseev, 2009; Alekseev and Bukejs in press) and 30 species from St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region (NW Russia) (Romantsov, 2007). Finally, the Lithuanian fauna comprises 38 species of *Cryptocephalus* (Pileckis and Monsevičius, 1997; Silfverberg 2004; Bukejs and Barševskis, 2008), and the aim of the current study is to contribute to the faunal knowledge of this group in Lithuania reporting *Cryptocephalus (Burlinius) ochroleucus* Fairmaire, 1859 for the first time in this country.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The examined material is deposited in the collection of Kaunas Tadas Ivanauskas Zoological Museum (KZM, Kaunas, Lithuania).

The identification keys in Bieńkowski (2004) and Warchałowski (1999, 2003) have been used to determine the available specimen. Photographs were taken using a *Zeiss SteREO Discovery V12* stereomicroscope and an *AxioCam* digital camera.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the study of the Baltic leaf-beetle fauna, *Cryptocephalus (Burlinius) ochroleucus* Fairmaire, 1859 was registered for the first time for Lithuania, as well as for the eastern Baltic region and Fennoscandia. This record has expanded the list of Chrysomelidae of the Lithuanian fauna, which currently is known to comprise 39 species of the genus *Cryptocephalus*.

Material examined: Lithuania, Curonian Spit, Juodkrantė, 55°32'46.7''N 21°07'15.2''E, 25.VIII.1995 (1♀, leg. E. Gaidienė).

Morphology: This small species (2.3-2.7 mm) is characterized by a pronotum distinctly punctuate (Fig. 2) unlike most species in the subgenus. The body is entirely yellow above, except for the posterior margin of pronotum and the anterior margin of elytra usually with a black very narrow marginal ridge. The underside is pale, light brownish in darker coloured specimens. Aedeagus (Fig. 3). Body length is 2.3-2.7 mm (Warchałowski, 2003). Habitus (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1-3. *Cryptocephalus ochroleucus*: (1) habitus, dorsal view, (2) pronotum, dorsal view, (3) aedeagus, dorsal, ventral and lateral views (Fig. 3 after Warchałowski 1999, other original).

Distribution: The species has been reported from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Ukraine (Lopatin *et al.*, 2010; Petitpierre, 2000; Warchałowski, 1999). Moreover, the subspecies *flabellatus* Schöller, 2009 was described from Iran. In Poland it is a very rare species and known mainly from south-western part of country (Warchałowski pers. comm. 2011). Thus, the record of *Cr. ochroleucus* from Lithuania extends its distribution range.

Bionomy and host plant: It is stenotopic, arboricol, phyllophagous species (Koch, 1992). This species is oligophag and feeds on *Populus* and *Salix* (Bieńkowski, 2004; Koch, 1992).

Cryptocephalus ochroleucus Fairmaire, 1859 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors are sincerely grateful to Andrzej Warchałowski (Wrocław, Poland) for helpful comments.

The research by Andris Bukejs has been done within the framework of the project of European Social Fund (No 2009/0206/1DP/1.1.1.2.0/09/APIA/VIAA/010)

REFERENCES

- Alekseev, V. I., 2003, On fauna of leaf beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) and seed beetles (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) of the Kaliningrad region (Baltic coast). *Baltic Journal of Coleopterology*, 3(1): 63-75.
- Alekseev, V. I., Bukejs, A., in press, Contributions to the knowledge of beetles (Insecta: Coleoptera) in the Kaliningrad region. 2. *Baltic Journal of Coleopterology*, 11(2).
- Bieńkowski, A. O., 2004, *Leaf-beetles (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) of the Eastern Europe. New key to subfamilies, genera and species*. Moscow, Mikron-print, 278.
- Bukejs, A., 2010, A new leaf-beetle for the Latvian fauna: *Cryptocephalus quadripustulatus* Gyllenhal, 1813 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). *Acta Zoologica Lituanica*, 20(3): 250-252.
- Bukejs, A., Alekseev, V.I., 2009, Eight new and little-known leaf-beetles species (Coleoptera: Megalopodidae & Chrysomelidae) for the Kaliningrad region. *Baltic Journal of Coleopterology*, 9(1): 45-50.
- Bukejs, A., Barševskis, A., 2008, New leaf-beetle species, *Cryptocephalus solivagus* Leonardi & Sassi, 2001 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in the Lithuanian fauna. *Acta Zoologica Lituanica*, 18(4): 267-269.
- Koch, K., 1992, *Die Käfer Mitteleuropas: Ökologie. Band 3*. Goecke & Evers, Krefeld, 389.
- Lopatin, I. K., Dovgailo, K. E., 2002, The genus *Cryptocephalus* (Chrysomelidae) of Palearctic region. CD key and database on the basis of software "Lysandra". Minsk.
- Lopatin, I.K., Nesterova, O.L., 2005, *Insecta of Byelarus: Leaf-Beetles (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae)*. Minsk, Tehnoprint, 293. [in Russian, English abstract]
- Lopatin, I., Smetana, A., Schöller, M., 2010, *Cryptocephalinae, Cryptocephalini, Cryptocephalus*. In: Löbl, I. & Smetana, A. (ed.) *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera, Vol. 6*. Stenstrup, Apollo Books: 580-606.
- Petitpierre, E., 2000, *Coleoptera Chrysomelidae, I*. In: Ramos, M.A. et al. (eds.) *Fauna Ibérica*, vol. 13. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC, Madrid, 521.
- Pileckis, S., Monsevičius, V., 1997, *Lietuvos Fauna. Vabalai. (Fauna of Lithuania: Beetles)*. Vilnius, Publishing House of Encyclopaedias and Scientific Literature, 216. (In Lithuanian)
- Romantsov, P. V., 2007, A review of leaf beetles (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) of St. Petersburg and Leningrad province. *Entomological Review*, 86(2): 306–336. (In Russian)
- Silfverberg, H., 2004, Enumeratio nova Coleopterorum Fennoscandiae, Daniae et Baltiae. *Sahlbergia*, 9: 1-111.
- Warchałowski, A., 1999, Übersicht der westpaläarktischen Arten der Untergattung *Burlinius* Lopatin, 1965 (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cryptocephalus). *Genus*, 10(4): 529-627.
- Warchałowski, A., 2003, *The leaf-beetles (Chrysomelidae) of Europe and the Mediterranean region*. Warszawa, Natura optima dux Foundation, 600pp.

Received: April 06, 2011

Accepted: September 04, 2011

