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Lobiopa insularis (CASTELNAU, 1840) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae: Nitidulinae) – an introduced beetle species new for the Palaearctic fauna

ANDRZEJ LASOŃ*, MAREK PRZEWOŹNY**

* Wiejska 4B/85, 15 – 352 Białystok, e-mail: haptos@interia.pl,
** Department of Systematic Zoology, Faculty of Biology, A. Mickiewicz University, Umultowska 89, 61-614 Poznań, e-mail: marekprzewozny@poczta.onet.pl

ABSTRACT. *Lobiopa insularis* (CASTELNAU, 1840) was found on Canary Islands. It originates from the New World. The species is new to the Palaearctic fauna.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Nitidulinae, *Lobiopa insularis*, new record, Palaearctic, Canary Islands.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Lobiopa* ERICHSON, 1843 is a New World genus, belonging to the family Nitidulidae and subfamily Nitidulinae. It comprises 22 species distributed only in Nearctic and Neotropical regions.

Some members of the family Nitidulidae, mostly those feeding on rotting fruits and other decaying plant material (especially species belonging to the subfamily Carpophilinae), are known for their great ability to colonize new geographic areas. Until now, eighteen species of Nitidulidae beetles recorded from the Western Palaearctic region were introduced from outside of this area (JELÍNEK & AUDISIO 2007). In this paper we present another species introduced to Palearctic from the Nearctic and Neotropical region.

All specimens have been collected by the second author. Specimens are deposited in collections of both authors.

Locality in Palaearctic

Canary Islands: Tenerife, Costa Adeje, in decaying fruits of dactyliferous palms (*Phoenix canariensis* CHAB. and *P. dactylifera* L.) (Fig. 1), 13 VIII 2008, 4 exx.

Fig. 1. Collecting site in Costa Adeje, Tenerife.

Remarks

Habitus as Fig. 2. The genus *Lobiopa* ER. is closely related and similar to genus *Soronia* ERICHSON, 1843, which differs from it by parallel arrangement of antennal grooves.

Fig. 2. Habitus of *Lobiopa insularis* (CAST.).

DISCUSSION

Lobiopa insularis (CAST.) is the most widespread species among all New World Nitidulidae. Its range covers almost all areas of North, Central and South America (BLACKWELDER, 1945). This species has been recorded from Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Grenada, Guiana, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Thomas, Saint Vincent, and USA. In recent years, it was also recorded from Dominica (PECK 2006) and Bahama (THURNBOW & THOMAS 2008).

Food preferences of this species are very diverse. Adults have been found in both natural and synantropic environments such as leaking sap from trees, bracket fungus, on flowers (Annonaceae), in different types of traps and also on decaying fruits and vegetables, and in bee (*Apis mellifera* L.) colonies (ELLIS et al. 2008).

It is difficult to assess if *Lobiopa insularis* (CAST.) will expand into new areas in Palaearctic, but almost twenty years ago *Stelidota geminata* (SAY, 1825), a species with similar food preferences, was introduced to Azores (ISRAELSON 1985). Thereafter, this species was introduced to Continental Europe where it adjusted well to the new environment. Now it is

recorded from Austria, Belgium, France, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey and Italy (JELÍNEK & AUDISIO 2007).

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