

FIRST RECORDS OF *POLYDRUSUS (CONOCETUS) CRINIPES* GERMANN, 2018 FROM CROATIA AND ALBANIA (COLEOPTERA, CURCULIONIDAE)

CHRISTOPH GERMANN^{1*} & TAMAS NEMES²

¹Curator Biosciences, Natural History Museum Basel, Augustinerstrasse 2, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland
(e-mail: germann.christoph@gmail.com)

²Jávör u. 5/B, 1145 Budapest, Hungary (e-mail: tamas@liveinsectbox.net)

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The first records of *Polydrusus (Conocetus) crinipes* Germann, 2018 from southern Croatia and Albania considerably enlarge the species' distribution towards the Northwest. The species has been previously confined to Greece and Bulgaria. The habitat at Bačinska lakes, where the species was discovered in Croatia, fits well with its ecological preferences.

Key words: Croatia, Albania, faunistics, *Polydrusus crinipes*, new record

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Prvi nalazi vrste *Polydrusus (Conocetus) crinipes* Germann 2018 u južnoj Hrvatskoj i Albaniji značajno povećava rasprostranjenje vrste prema sjeveru. Vrsta je dosad bila ograničena na područje Grčke i Bugarske. Stanište na Bačinskim jezerima, gdje je vrsta pronađena u Hrvatskoj, u skladu je s njenim ekološkim sklonostima.

Ključne riječi: Hrvatska, Albanija, faunistika, *Polydrusus crinipes*, novi nalaz.

INTRODUCTION

Within the diverse superfamily Curculionoidea, the genus *Polydrusus* Germar, 1817 at present comprises 40 species in Croatia (ALONSO-ZARAZAGA *et al.*, 2017). Just recently the subgenus *Conocetus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1875 was reviewed, an identification key for all eleven valid species was given, and the distribution of all species was investigated in detail (GERMANN, 2018). As *Polydrusus (Denticonocetus) kahri* Kirsch, 1865 – present in Croatia - does not belong to the subgenus anymore, the record of *Polydrusus crinipes* is the first one of the entire subgenus *Conocetus* for Croatia. From Albania, only *Polydrusus (Conocetus) marcidus* Kiesenwetter, 1864 was, quite recently, recorded from that subgenus (GERMANN, 2018), and APFELBECK (1922) mentioned *Polydrusus bardus* Gyllenhal, 1834 (under its synonymous name *gracilicornis* Kiesenwetter, 1864) from Oroshi, Albania. However, it is unclear if *P. bardus* or *P. crinipes* was meant. The newly described *Polydrusus crinipes* was in part a misinterpretation of *Polydrusus bardus*, or one of its many synonyms. Only

the examination of the holotype, conserved in the Swedish Museum of Natural History, Stockholm, allowed this misidentification to be unravelled. Despite this confusion, neither *Polydrusus bardus*, in the past sense, nor *Polydrusus crinipes* was ever recorded in Croatia. Hence the present discovery of *P. crinipes* in southern Croatia is indeed a surprise. The circumstances of the record are given and discussed, the specimen is depicted and an overview of its present distribution is provided.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A single female specimen (Fig. 1) just freshly emerged, as the mandibular scar is still visible on the left mandible (this prolongation easily breaks off just hours after hatching) was found by hand and photographed by the co-author at Baćinska jezera in the South of Croatia, coordinates 43°4'33"N, 17°25'18"E on June 3 in 2017. The specimen was not collected, but a photo was taken for



Fig. 1. *Polydrusus (Conocetus) crinipes*, female, Croatia: Baćinska jezera (scale 1 mm; photo: T. Nemes).

determination and as proof of its presence. The habitat can be characterized as an ecotone between poplar woods and lakeside reeds. The species has in general typically been collected mainly near streams, lakes or lagoons, and shows a certain affinity for deciduous trees (GERMANN, 2018). Hence the present record at Bacinska Lake fits well with these supposed ecological preferences. The other specimen from Albania is a male from Tepelenë, 2 km NW Memaliaj, N 40°21.867', E19°57.716', 140 m a. s. l. collected on May 19 in 2018 by Hans Mühle (Natural History Museum Basel collection). The specimen was similarly collected along the floodplains of a river, the Viosa, which again fits with the species' preferences.

To date *Polydrusus crinipes* was only known from the localities of the type material, hence from southern Bulgaria and Greece (Fig. 2). The present record shows, that *P. crinipes* is certainly wider distributed at least along the Dalmatian coast and reaches Croatia in the South. In these countries several older researchers, e.g. Victor Apfelbeck 1859–1934, working extensively on Polydrusini (APFELBECK, 1922), made intensive collection efforts. APFELBECK (1922) listed five species under the subgenus *Conocetus* in his article, where the mentioned "*bardus* Gyllh." with a single locality "Varna" in Bulgaria might have referred to *crinipes* in the present sense.

One reason why despite these collections, this rather big (4.5 mm) and colourful species has not been recorded – especially along the coast from Albania and Montenegro to Bosnia and Herzegovina and more northerly along the Croatian

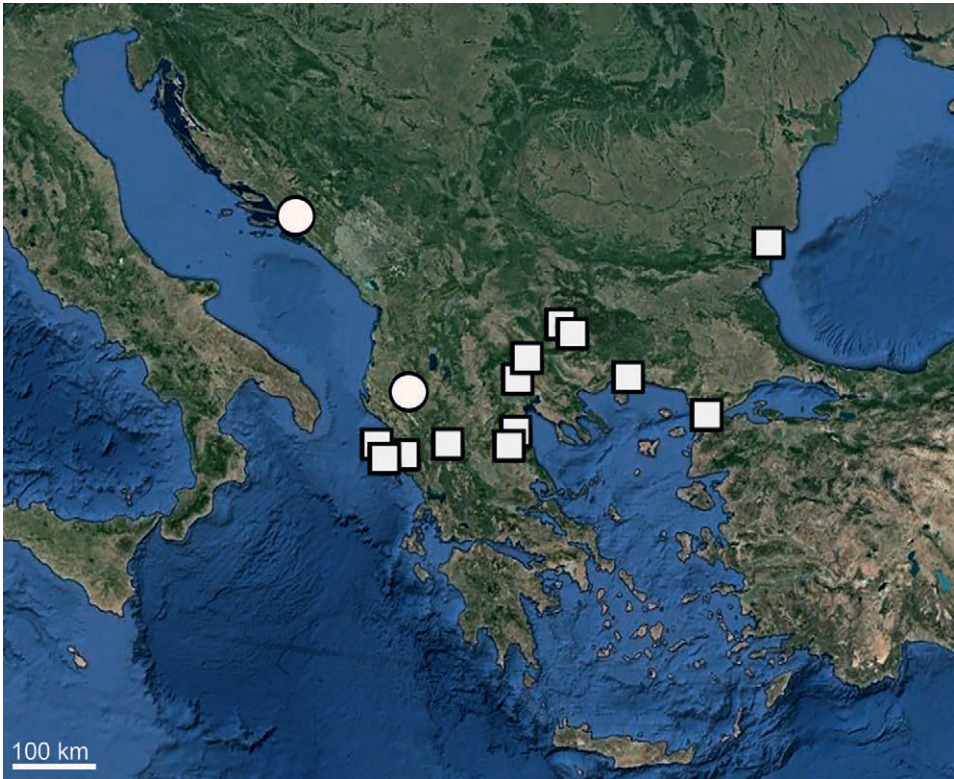


Fig. 2. Records of *Polydrusus (Conocetus) crinipes* taken from literature (squares - GERMANN, 2018; APFELBECK, 1922), including the present records from southern Croatia and Albania (circles).

coast – might be the generally short appearance time of many *Polydrusus* which is often limited to a single peak of several weeks from spring till early summer, depending on the altitude involved. This makes it more difficult to detect them. An expansion of the inhabited area is another possible explanation for the present records, both dating back to very recent findings, but more data is needed to prove this hypothesis.

One goal of our article is to encourage other entomologists to keep an eye out for possible occurrences of *Polydrusus crinipes* in the Balkans. As shown here, good photos can help in identifying and thus recording the species.

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