



Missing part of the areal of soil weevil *Ruteria graeca* (Caldara, 1973) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

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Abstract

Ruteria graeca (Caldara, 1973) until recently was well-known in Greece, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia. In this study some new localities are given: nine from Serbia (Cer, Bukulja, Rudnik, Ovčar banja, Zlatibor; Goč, Kučaj, Kopaonik and Stara Planina), and two from Montenegro (Biogradska Gora and Ostrog).

INTRODUCTION

During the successful co-evolution of plants, some groups of the largest animal family on Earth (real weevils, or Curculionidae) (1), »chose« to live in the soil. Among them is a great number of species from the subfamily Cryptorhynchinae. The name of this subfamily has its root in their common morphological characteristic: the rostrum is hidden in the gutter between the fore coxae when the animal is not active. Cryptorhynchinae is one of the largest weevil subfamilies (2). There are about 6000 species (3). These beetles are distributed worldwide, although people are less familiar with them than other weevils, because of their hidden, often underground life.

In Europe, Cryptorhynchinae are represented by 16 genera (4). One of them is *Ruteria* Roudier, 1954. Until today, the presence of *Ruteria* was not registered at all on the territory of Serbia.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

From 1999 to 2003, by using pitfall traps with vinegar-acid or red wine, as well as animal separation from soil samples by Tulgrene-Berlese apparatus, adult soil weevil material belonging to *Ruteria graeca* (Caldara, 1973) (Figure 1) was collected on nine localities in the territory of Serbia and two localities in Montenegro (Fig. 2 and Tab. 1).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The material contains 99 adult specimens (61 male and 38 female) of *Ruteria graeca*. All material is stored in the collection of the author. Details of the localities where they were found are given in Table 1.

Until recently, the presence of *Ruteria graeca* was practically unregistered in the territory of the Central part of the Balkan Peninsula, except on Durmitor Mt. (4, 5).

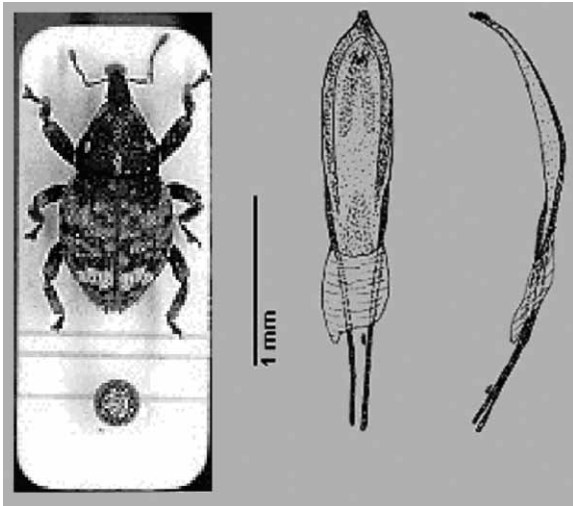


Figure 1. Habitus and aedeagus of *Rutera graeca* (combined from (5)).

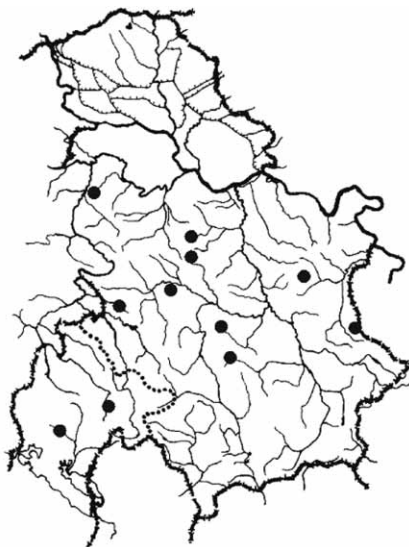


Figure 2. The new localities of *Rutera graeca* findings in Serbia and Montenegro.

Locus typicus for *R. graeca* is Ioannina in Greece (4). Apart from this and two other places in Greece, this weevil species is also registered on the Rila and Balkan Mountains in Bulgaria, Bjelashnica and Jahorina Mountains

TABLE 1

Finding data on *Rutera graeca* in Serbia and Montenegro.

| | Locality | males | females | S |
|----|-----------------|-------|---------|----|
| 1 | Cer | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | Bukulja | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | Rudnik | 18 | 12 | 30 |
| 4 | Ovčar Banja | 14 | 5 | 19 |
| 5 | Zlatibor | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 6 | Goč | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 7 | Kučaj | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| 8 | Kopaonik | 5 | 9 | 14 |
| 9 | Stara pl. | 15 | 2 | 17 |
| 10 | Biogradska Gora | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 11 | Ostrog | 0 | 3 | 3 |

in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Velika and Mala Kapela Mountains in Croatia (5).

The new data on the *Rutera graeca* findings in Serbia and Montenegro are an important supplement to completion of the record/register of the distribution of this species, which is endemic for the Balkan Peninsula (4). This study describes a missing, heart part of areal of *Rutera graeca*.

Biogeographically, clearly (Figure 2) the rivers Sava and Danube are natural barriers for distribution of *R. graeca* to the north.

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