
FAUNISTIC RECORDS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC – 435

Coleoptera:**Cerambycidae**

Semanotus rusicus (Fabricius, 1777). Bohemia centr.: Praha-Podolí (5952), 4.x.2016, 1 spec., in wood of dead *Juniperus* sp. in residential area near the city center, L. Čížek & V.Čížek leg., L. Čížek det., coll. P. Kozel (Slavonice, Czech Republic).

Eastern Mediterranean species reaching central Asia. In Europe its native range covers Italy, the Balkan Peninsula, Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine and southern Russia (Sama & Löbl 2010). New adventive species for the Czech Republic.

Buprestidae

Lamprodila festiva (Linnaeus, 1767). Bohemia centr.: Praha-Podolí (5952), 4.x.2016, 10 spec., reared from wood of *Thuja occidentalis* growing in residential area near the city center, L. Čížek & V. Čížek leg., L. Čížek det., coll. V. Kubáň (Šlapanice, Czech Republic), M. Volf (České Budějovice, Czech Republic) and M. Škorpík (Lukov, Czech Republic).

Species with Mediterranean distribution native to North Africa, West Asia, South and Central Europe (Kubáň 2006). New adventive species for the Czech Republic.

Neither of the two species has been previously recorded from the Czech Republic. The closest native populations of *L. festiva* occur in Hungary and Austria (Zabransky 1991, Németh 2013), and those of *S. rusicus* are found in West Slovakia and Austria (Heyrovský 1955, Zabransky 1989). Both species develop in wood of Cupressaceae, and originally the common juniper (*Juniperus communis*) served as host of *L. festiva* and *S. rusicus* in Central Europe (e.g. Heyrovský 1955, Zabransky 1989, 1991). Due to their limited, scattered distribution in Central Europe and the decline of their original host, *L. festiva* and *S. rusicus* were rare, considered threatened and often enjoyed legal protection in the region (Jäch 1994, Jendek & Jendek 2006, Németh 2013).

This picture started to change in the 1990s. *L. festiva* was recorded from non-native *Thuja* widely used as ornamental trees (Froissard & Lemesle 1996). It began to spread in urban conditions exploiting *Thuja* and other ornamental Cupressaceae in France (Bocquillon 1997, Barbier 2002), Germany (Hemmann 2007, Niehuis & Reiss 2010), Hungary (Nemeth 2013), Luxembourg (Thoma & Eickermann 2014), Romania (Nitzu et al. 2016), Austria (Rabl et al. 2017) and Russia (Sochi), where the presence of *L. festiva* has been attributed to massive plantings of imported ornamental trees prior to the olympic games in 2014 (Volkovich & Karpun 2017).

Hence, it colonised large parts of Europe and became a serious pest of ornamental Cupressaceae in urban settings. Similarly, *S. rusicus* was recorded on *Thuja* in Italy in 2014 (Landi 2015), and in Slovakia in 2011 (J. Vávra, pers. comm.). Breeding of *S. rusicus* outside of its native range has been reported from the UK and France (Mendel & Barclay 2008, Allemand 2009).

The trees attacked by the beetles in Prague were planted 30 years ago. They were thus infested by *L. festiva* and *S. rusicus* at their current site, where both species also completed

their whole life cycle. Breeding populations of both species are thus most likely already established in the city of Prague. *Thuja* is among the most commonly used ornamental conifers in the Czech Republic. A proportion of the locally sold plants originated from nurseries in Italy (P. Krejčířík, pers. comm.), where the above beetles occur commonly. It is thus likely that both *L. festiva* and *S. ruscicus* originated there, and that their spread has been facilitated by transport of infected saplings across the continent.

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