

**A SPECIES OF LONGHORN BEETLE (COLEOPTERA:
CERAMBYCIDAE) NEW TO THE ALBANIAN FAUNA –
NEW RECORD OF *TRAGOSOMA DEPSARIUM* (L.)**

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ABSTRACT: This article deals with the finding of a longhorn beetle species new to the fauna of Albania. An abundant population of longhorn beetle *Tragosoma depsarium* (L.), not known in Albania so far, was found on Mt. Arithit in Central Albania. Development of the newly recorded species in Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce* Griseb.) is described.

KEY WORDS: Albania, Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce* Griseb.), *Tragosoma depsarium* (L.), fauna.

There are six species of longhorn beetles (family: Cerambycidae) belonging to the phylogenetically primitive subfamily Prioninae in Europe. *Tragosoma depsarium* (L.) is the smallest (length 18 – 36 mm) and the scarcest species of this subfamily.

Tragosoma depsarium is a species with Holarctic distribution, inhabiting coniferous forests of Eurasia and North America. The species is linked with old coniferous forests of the primeval pattern. In Central and Southern Europe, it is a species of highlands and mountains. *Tragosoma depsarium* is a very scarce and threatened species in Europe, one of the most threatened species of insects there. The main reason for its decrease apparently lies in the way forests are managed.

Tragosoma depsarium is known from many European countries. However, there are no records of its occurrence in Belgium, Denmark, Hungary, Luxembourg, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Portugal, peninsular Italy, the Peloponnese, and Romania. Similarly, there are no records from Albania, despite the mountainous character of this state, natural occurrence of coniferous forests, and records from the neighboring countries (Montenegro, Serbia, Greece) (AUDISIO, 2005; BENSE, 1995).

Larvae of *Tragosoma deorsarium* develop mostly in decaying wood of recumbent trunks of conifers, rarely in stumps and basal parts of standing trees. The development is at least triennial (SLÁMA, 1998). *Picea abies* (L.), *Pinus sylvestris* L., and *P. pyrenaica* Lapeyr. (SLÁMA, 1998) are mentioned among its host plants in Europe. In addition, *Pinus* sp. is also reported as the host by many authors (BENSE, 1995; DEMELT, 1957; ŠVÁCHA and DANILEVSKY, 1986). Development is also possible in *Larix* sp. (BENSE, 1995; BÍLÝ and MEHL, 1989). *Abies* sp. is mentioned as well (BENSE, 1995; DEMELT, 1957; HEYROVSKÝ, 1992). Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce* Griseb.) as the host plant of *Tragosoma deorsarium* has not been recorded to date.

An abundant population of *Tragosoma deorsarium* was found on Mt. Arithit in Central Albania in July of 2001. This mountain lies approximately 50 km east of the Adriatic Sea. The altitude is over 2,000 m above sea level (the highest peak, Miçekut has an altitude of 2,063 m). The highest reaches of the mountain used to be covered by almost unmixed stands of Macedonian pine (*Pinus peuce*). The major part of these stands underwent transformation into stony pastures with solitary old pines, eventually with small-area woods. Larger forests have survived only in inaccessible parts of the region. There is lot of recumbent decaying wood suitable for development of *Tragosoma deorsarium* everywhere, due to the lack of standard forest management and occasional felling of old trees without their utilization.

Tragosoma deorsarium is relatively abundant in this region, and the majority of recumbent trunks of Macedonian pine carry evidence of its development. Numerous exit holes, larvae in various developmental stages, and newly hatched adults in pupal chambers were found in trunks in the middle of July. Occurrence of *Tragosoma deorsarium* was mainly linked with unmixed stands of Macedonian pine at altitudes between 1,800 and 2,000 m. Rarely, it can also be found in dead Macedonian pines scattered in beechwoods at altitudes over 1,400 m. Remoteness of the mountain, absence of the standard forest management, and occasional felling of old trees and their abandonment in situ contribute to increased abundance of the population of this elsewhere scarce longhorn beetle species.

Albania is still outside the interests of the majority of scientists. More detailed study of this country would provide more interesting information.

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**НОВА ВРСТА СТРИЖИБУБА (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)
ЗА ФАУНУ АЛБАНИЈЕ – НОВИ ПОДАТАК
ЗА *TRAGOSOMA DEPSARIUM* (L.)**

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ИЗВОД

Стрижибуба *Tragosoma depsarium* (L.), је најмањи и најређи члан подфамилије Prioninae у Европи. Сматра се веома угроженом врстом Европе. Врсте настањују старе четинарске шуме. *Tragosoma depsarium* је позната у многим европским земљама: Албанија, Белгија, Грчка (Пелопонез), Данска, Италија, Луксембург, Мађарска, Македонија, Холандија, Португалија и Румунија. Ларве *Tragosoma depsarium* се развијају у трулим обореним стаблима и пањевима четинара. *Picea abies* (L.), *Pinus sylvestris* L., и *P. pyrenaica* Lapeurт, врсте рода *Pinus* sp., *Abies* sp. и *Larix* sp.

У Албанији је први пут уловљена у јулу 2001. на планини Аритхит. Уловљена је у шуми македонског бора (*Pinus peuce* Griseb.) на надморској висини од 1800 до 2000 m. Налаз ове врсте на македонском бору је такође нов. Удаљеност планине Аритхит, ненарушена шума са старим стаблима иду у прилог веће густине популације него на другим местима где је ова врста утврђена.

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