NEW RECORDS OF THE RECENTLY DESCRIBED GEOPHILIC WEEVIL EUROSPHALMUS (EUROSPHALMUS) ZERCHEI YUNAKOV &NADEIN, 2006 (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE) IN SERBIA

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ABSTRACT: New records of the geophilic weevil Eurosphalmus (Eurosphalmus) zerchei Yunakov & Nadein 2006 are given. Very precise data about the place of finding contribute to knowledge of its ecology.

KEY WORDS: weevils, Eurosphalmus, Serbia, Balkan Peninsula, endemic

The genus Eurosphalmus belongs to the family Curculionidae, subfamily Entiminae (short-nosed weevils). It is divided into two lineages (subgenera): the Eurosphalmus s.str. inhabit humid forests of the south Carpathians and Stara Planina Range; and the Rhinomiamima inhabit more arid biotopes on the west coast of the Black Sea. (YUNAKOV and NADEIN, 2006).

Among the six species of the genus Eurosphalmus, only E. (E.) zerchei Yunakov & Nadein (Fig. 1) has been recorded for Serbia.

In the spring (28th April to 15th June) of 2000, Nastas Ilić found three specimens of E. (E.) zerchei on Mt. Bukulja. Material was collected using pitfall traps (plastic cups) with the red wine or vinegar. Many soil dwellers were attracted. Among them were one female (collected during the period 28th April – 23rd May) and two males (23rd May – 15th June) of E. (E.) zerchei.

YUNAKOV and NADEIN (2006) gave some ecological data about all members of the genus Eurosphalmus. They conclude that it inhabits foothills and lowlands with altitudes not higher than 1045 m.

We can give much more precise data about the ecology of E. (E.) zerchei. The habitat was a very mixed forest (beech, oak, sweet cherry, pine…), located on the southern and northern expo-
sures of Mt. Bukulja, at 550 m of altitude, approximately 200 m from the Garaši Reservoir.

We initially identified these specimens as suspicious *Amicromias rhilensis* Yunakov, 2005. But after a visit in summer of 2006 to the Entomological Department of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (ZIN RAS), proper identification was made by the Nikolai Yunakov [one of the authors of the description of the species *E. (Eurospalmus) zerchei* Yun. & Nad., which was published in June 2006].

*Eurospalmus (Eurospalmus) zerchei* (Yunakov & Nadein, 2006) is named in honor of Dr. L. Zerche, who collected most of the material of this species, mostly in the Stara Planina Mountains in Bulgaria.

Before our records, only two specimens collected in Serbia were identified as *E. zerchei* (Yunakov and Nadein, 2006):

- One is a female collected by Kraatz, without any label data about the place and time of collecting. This specimen was identified by Formánek as *Pseudoptochus rumelicus*. In view of the time when Formánek actively worked as the describer of many weevil species, viz., at the beginning of the 20th century, we can suppose that the specimen is about a hundred years old.

- The other specimen is a male from the private Borovec collection. The data on its label are as follows: Serb., Bukulja, leg. Tadić, 23.VI’54.

![Fig. 1. - *E. (Eurospalmus) zerchei* male, general view and aedeagus (dorsal aspect, apex, and lateral aspect) (after Yunakov and Nadein, 2006).](image-url)
Our findings confirm Mt. Bukulja as the westernmost point of geographical distribution of the Balkan endemic species *E. zerchei* Yun. & Nad.

The authors are extremely grateful to colleague Dr. Nikolai Yunakov of the ZIN RAS for help.