



First record of *Ambrosiodmus* (Hopkins, 1915) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae) in Europe

MASSIMO FACCOLI¹, GABRIELLA FRIGIMELICA¹, NICOLA MORI¹,
EDOARDO PETRUCCO TOFFOLO¹, MARCO VETTORAZZO² & MAURO SIMONATO¹

¹Department of Environmental Agronomy and Crop Sciences, Agripolis – Viale dell'Università, 16 – 35020 Legnaro (PD), Italy.
E-mail: massimo.faccoli@unipd.it

²Veneto Region – Phytosanitary Service, Viale dell'Agricoltura, 1A – 37060 Buttapietra (VR), Italy

In early April 2009, many specimens of *Ambrosiodmus* (Hopkins, 1915) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae), a genus new to Europe, were found overwintering in a living horse chestnut tree (*Aesculus hippocastanum* L.) in the botanic garden of Padova (NE Italy) (45°23' N, 11° 52' E). In October 2009, about 80 peach trees growing in an orchard close to Verona (Alpo di Villafranca, NE Italy) (45°22' N, 10° 55' E) were found infested by the same insect. In both cases, the insects were infesting the tree sapwood infected by honey fungus (*Armillaria mellea* (Vahl) Kummer). Moreover, in the first week of October one specimen was collected also in a pheromone trap baited with ipsdienol and ipsenol and set up in the international harbour of Venice (Marghera, 45°27' N, 12° 15' E). Subsequent morphological analyses ascribed the collected specimens to the species *A. rubricollis* (Eichhoff, 1875), an ambrosia beetle of Asian origin. The infested trees were submitted to sanitation felling and burnt. Some infested log was placed in a transparent and ventilated plastic cage, kept under laboratory conditions (21±1 °C, 70% r.h., and L16:D8 photoperiod) waiting for insect emergence. Emerging adults were removed daily, identified and sexed by morphological features. The rearing gave several thousands of adults, with a female:male ratio of about 40:1.

The genus *Ambrosiodmus* (Hopkins, 1915)

The genus *Ambrosiodmus*, which was separated only recently from *Xyleborus* (Wood 1986), is represented by more than 90 species worldwide (Wood & Bright 1992). Most species occur in tropical regions of Asia and Africa; about 14 are from South and Central America (Wood & Bright 1992), and seven from North America (save Mexico) (Wood & Bright 1992; Rabaglia *et al.* 2006). The Australian fauna includes at least four native species (Wood & Bright 1992); *A. rubricollis* is now the first species in this genus recorded from Europe.

Ambrosiodmus rubricollis (Eichhoff, 1875)

Diagnosis. *Ambrosiodmus rubricollis* is the only *Ambrosiodmus* species known to Europe, and it is easily distinguished from other European species of the tribe Xyleborini by the asperities covering the entire surface of the pronotum, where extend from anterior to base, including most of discal area (Figs. 1a, b) (Wood 1986; Maiti & Saha 2004). Other features concern the antennal club, which has the first segment rounded on both faces (Figs. 1d, 2a), extending to subapical area of posterior face, and the second segment conspicuous on anterior face (Rabaglia *et al.* 2006). The anterior margin of the pronotum is never armed by a definite row of serrations (Figs. 1a, b, d), whereas the lateral margins of protibiae and metatibiae are armed by 7–8 and 8–11 denticles, respectively (Fig. 2b). Females (2.4–2.7 mm) (Fig. 1a) are always larger than males (1.6–1.8 mm) (Fig. 1c).

Distribution. The species is widespread in Asia (China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam) (Wood & Bright 1992). It was then introduced in Australia (Wood & Bright 1992) and North America (Bright 1968), where now it is commonly found in 11 mid-Atlantic and south-eastern states (Rabaglia *et al.* 2006), indicating its quick spread into new regions, probably aided by its inbreeding mating system and its polyphagy (Kirkendall & Jordal 2006).

Hosts. As for all Xyleborini, *Ambrosiodmus* species are ambrosia beetles (Wood 1986). *Ambrosiodmus rubricollis* is extremely polyphagous on broadleaved trees and shrubs, and is occasionally reported also from conifers. The recorded host trees, arranged in alphabetical order, include: *Abies fabri*, *Acacia* sp., *Alnus sibirica*, *Biota orientalis*, *Carya glabrata*, *Carya* sp., *Castanea* sp., *Cinnamomum* sp., *Cornus* sp., *Cunninghamia lanceolata*, *Diospyros kaki*, *Fraxinus*