



### **First records of *Nacerdes melanura* (Linnaeus 1758) and *Xanthochroina auberti* (Abeille de Perrin 1876) (Coleoptera: Oedemeridae) from Israel**

OZ RITTNER<sup>1</sup> & ASSAF NIR<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Zoological Museum, Steinhardt National Collections of Natural History, Department of Zoology, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978, Israel. E-mail: [israelbutterflies@gmail.com](mailto:israelbutterflies@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Hasar Shitrit 18, Kiryat Haim (Haifa). E-mail: [assafnb@gmail.com](mailto:assafnb@gmail.com)

#### **Abstract**

*Nacerdes melanura* (Linnaeus 1758) and *Xanthochroina auberti* (Abeille de Perrin 1876) are recorded from Israel for the first time.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Oedemeridae, Israel, introduced species, new record, invasive, Wharf Borer

#### ***Nacerdes melanura* (Linnaeus 1758)**

(Fig. 1)

On the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2012 twelve specimens of *Nacerdes melanura* (Linnaeus, 1758) were collected from buildings in different streets in Neshar and brought to Tel-Aviv University by U. Shalom (Ministry of Environmental Protection). Mr. Shalom reported that *N. melanura* were infesting some houses in the area for the last 5 years or so. Adults were seen from May to July inside and around the buildings, mainly during the morning hours. Neshar is a small town on the northeastern slopes of the Carmel Ridge, close to Haifa and its harbor. *Nacerdes melanura* is also known by its common name "the Wharf borer". It is a well known wood boring species with a preference for wet and decaying wood (ISU Extension 2005). Larvae often inhabit wet timber along rivers and harbors and therefore it is considered a major pest in docks and stored wooden objects in warehouses (Unger *et al.* 2011). It is most probable that this species was introduced to Israel through the harbor of Haifa. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May 2013 the first author (OR) collected a single specimen in a plant nursery in Kefar 'Azar in the central coastal plain of Israel, 6 km East of Tel-Aviv. This is the first record from central Israel and an expansion of its distribution to other parts of the country. We now consider *N. melanura* as an established new invasive pest species in Israel.

**Examined material** (Fig. 3): Carmel Ridge, Neshar, 31.v.2012, M. Krinsky (12 exx.); Central Coastal Plain, Kefar 'Azar, 15.v.2013, O. Rittner (1 ex.).

#### ***Xanthochroina auberti* (Abeille de Perrin 1876)**

(Fig. 2)

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2011 the authors placed a light trap (mercury and UV light) at the edge of a small pine tree forest near the settlement of Nirit. A single individual of *Xanthochroina auberti* was collected. Based on this record, the authors searched through the unidentified material in the insect collection of the national collections of natural history of the Tel-Aviv University (TAUI) and discovered additional specimens from a wide range of habitats in Israel. This species was already known from Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Spain, Turkey (Švihla 2011) and Morocco (Arahou 2008). Colored habitus photos have been published from Spain (Dieguez Fernandez 2010; Lencina *et al.* 2008), Hungary (Merkl *et al.* 2010) and France (Ponel 2011). Despite its relatively broad distribution it is seldom collected and its biology is not yet fully understood. Adults can be found in cracks of *Pinus halepensis* (Abeille de Perrin

## Acknowledgements

We are grateful to our colleagues: Uri Shalom (Ministry of Environmental Protection) for allowing us to examine his collected material, Henk K. Mienis (Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel) for reviewing the draft, Revital Ben-David Zaslow (Department of Zoology, Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv, Israel), Marco Bologna (Dipartimento di Biologia ambientale, Università Roma, Italy) and Vladimír Švihla (Department of Entomology, National Museum, Kunratice, Czech Republic) for their valuable information regarding Oedemeridae.

## References

- Abeille de Perrin, E. (1876) M. Elzear abeille de perrin donne la diagnose d'une nouvelle espèce française d'Hétéromères. *Bulletin des séances de la Société entomologique de France*, 67, 179–180.
- Arahou, M. (2008) Catalogue de l'entomofaune du Chêne vert du Moyen Atlas (Maroc). *Documents de l'Institut Scientifique (Rabat)*, 22, 1–36.
- Diéguez Fernández, J.M. (2010) Nuevos coleópteros para Cataluña (NE Península Ibérica) (Insecta: Coleoptera). *Arquivos Entomológicos*, 3, 87–89.
- Iowa State University Extension (2005) Iowa Insect Information Notes: Wharf Borer. Department of Entomology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Available from: <http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/iin/wharfbo.html> (accessed 23 June 2014)
- Lencina, J.L., Gallego, D.Y. & Andújar, C. (2008) Nuevos datos de Oedemeridae de la Península Ibérica (Coleoptera). *Heteropterus, Revista de Entomología*, 8, 95–107.
- Merkl, O., Németh, T., György, Z., Podlussány, A., Szelenczey, B. & Vig, K. (2010) Further new beetle species in the Hungarian fauna (Coleoptera). *Folia Entomologica Hungarica Rovartani Közlemények*, 71, 23–29.
- Ponel, P. (1993) Coléoptères du Massif des Maures et de la dépression permienne périphérique. *Faune de Provence*, 14, 5–23.
- Ponel, P., Fadda, S., Lemaire, J., Matocq, A., Cornet, M. & Pavon, D. (2011) Arthropodes de la Principauté de Monaco. Coléoptères, Hétéroptères Aperçu sur les Fourmis, les Isopodes et les Pseudoscorpions. Direction de l'Environnement, Principauté de Monaco. Available from: <http://www.troglorites.fr/MonacoBioDiv2011.htm> (accessed 23 June 2014)
- Švihla, V. (2008) Oedemeridae. In: Löbl, I. & Smetana, A. (Eds.), *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Vol. 5*. Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 45, 353–369.
- Švihla, V. (2011) Supplementary notes on the family Oedemeridae (Coleoptera) as published in the Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera with the new data of distribution. *Klapalekiana*, 47, 83–88.
- Unger, A., Schniewind, A.P. & Unger, W. (2010) Conservation of Wood Artifacts. Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg, Germany, 578 pp.