

On the new status of *Agrilus perisi* Cobos, 1986 (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract

A new status for *Agrilus perisi* Cobos, 1986, as a subspecies of *Agrilus albogularis* Gory, 1841, is proposed. The redescription of the holotype of *Agrilus perisi* and a diagnosis for its differentiation from the closest subspecies of *Agrilus albogularis* are given. The European subspecies of *Agrilus albogularis* are distinguished in a key and a map showing the distributions is provided. Adults of *A. perisi* were collected on *Artemisia herba-alba* Asso, the putative host plant.

Key words: Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Agrilus albogularis perisi* Cobos (*nov. stat.*), redescription, taxonomy, key, distribution, host plant, Spain, Western Palearctic

Introduction

During June and July 2002, the authors made several entomological expeditions to the region named “Cerrato” in the southeast part of the Spanish province of Palencia. This is a very special terrain dominated by hills and steppes of gypsum marls. Small shrubs of *Artemisia* sp., *Santolina* sp., *Thymus* sp., *Ephedra* sp. and some patches of *Quercus pyrenaica* Willd and *Pinus halepensis* Miller form the main vegetation component.

Among the material collected by sweeping *Artemisia herba-alba* Asso (Asteraceae), we found numerous specimens of one species of the genus *Agrilus* Curtis, 1825. After a careful study of these specimens and the examination of male genitalia, we identified them as a member of the *Agrilus albogularis* Gory, 1841 species-group, characterized by having mesepimera and mesepisterna covered with dense, white pubescence and by the pronotal shape. *Agrilus albogularis* is currently divided into five subspecies: the nominal, widely distributed in Europe and Transcaucasia but not recorded from the Iberian Peninsula, *A. albogularis artemisiae* Brisout, 1863:78, recorded from France, Italy and the Iberian Peninsula, *A. albogularis dalmatinus* Obenberger, 1937:87 recorded from Croatia and Italy, *A. albogularis longepilosus* Cobos, 1966:323 from Afghanistan and *A. albogularis richteri*