



***Dorcadion axillare* Küster, 1847 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae): distribution, morphometrics, karyotype and description of a new subspecies from Romania**

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Abstract

Dorcadion axillare Küster, 1847 is confirmed to be present in Romania more than one hundred years after the last published record. This species was mentioned in 1908 from several localities in SE Romania by A. L. Montandon, but this record was overlooked or misinterpreted by subsequent authors, the species being currently considered endemic for Bulgaria. Based on all published records, museum specimens and new collecting data, *D. axillare* is in fact widely distributed in Romania. The specimens from the northern part of the distribution area differ from those in Bulgaria and are considered to belong to a different subspecies, *D. axillare moldavicum* **ssp. nov.** The cytogenetic study has revealed a karyotype with $2n = 24$ and this is the first comprehensive information on the chromosomes of the genus *Dorcadion*.

Key words: longhorn beetle, *Dorcadion*, taxonomy, cytogenetics

Introduction

Dorcadion axillare is considered by all recent authors (Breuning 1962; Heyrovsky 1967; Althoff & Danilevsky 1997; Danilevsky 2010) an endemic species in Bulgaria, but actually it was recorded from Romania at the beginning of the 20th century. Montandon (1908) recorded it as ‘*Dorcadion arenarium* Scop. v. *axillare* Küst.’ from Cornurile (Prahova Valley), Măcin and Mangalia in SE Romania. Besides this record, Jaquet (1901, 1903) mentioned ‘*Dorcadion arenarium* Scop. var. *velutinum* Stev.’ from the same area (Sihlea and Constanța). As *D. velutinum* Kraatz is actually considered a synonym of *D. sericatum* Sahlberg, an endemic Crimean species (Plavilstshikov 1958; Breuning 1962) superficially similar to *D. axillare*, these records could be most likely connected with *D. axillare*.

A single specimen of *D. axillare* collected by Montandon was located in MHNB, but additionally we examined a large series from south Dobruja (SE Romania) in N. Săvulescu collection (MHNB) and recent material was collected from several localities representing the most northern points of the distribution area (in NE Romania). These northern populations, which are morphologically different from those in Bulgaria and S Romania, are described here as a new subspecies.

Material and method

Specimens. The specimens in the type series were collected during several years, capturing each time only a small number of individuals in order to minimize the negative impact on the population. Specimens of the nominal subspecies were studied in the following collections: National Museum, Prague (NMP), Zoological Museum, Humboldt University, Berlin (ZMHU), Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris (MNHN), Natural History Museum, Wien (NHMW), ‘Grigore Antipa’ Natural History Museum, Bucharest (MHNB) and the first author’s collection. The above specimens were compared with two similar species: *Dorcadion arenarium*. **Croatia:** Istrian Peninsula, Opatija, 4♂; Kosinjski Bakovac, 1♀; Rijeka, 4♂; Zadar, Dalmatia, 1♂; Dalmatia, 7♂; no precise local-