

FIRST RECORD OF *ALLONYX QUADRIMACULATUS* (INSECTA: COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE) IN ROMANIA, FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS OF “GRIGORE ANTIPA” NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (BUCHAREST)

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Abstract. Collecting records for *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783) indicate a discontinuous range for the species; it has not been recorded in Romania until now. On the basis of a specimen collected by Dr. Nicolae Săvulescu in 1952 at Băile Herculane which is found in the Coleopteran collection of “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (Bucharest), the presence of this species in Romania is established.

Résumé. Les données concernant la distribution de l'espèce *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783) montrent un area discontinue. Cette espèce est signalée pour la première fois en Roumanie sur la base d'un échantillon collecté par Dr. Nicolae Săvulescu en 1952 à Băile Herculane qui se retrouve dans la collection des Coléoptères du Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle „Grigore Antipa“ de Bucarest.

Key words: *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783), Coleoptera, Cleridae, Romania, Băile Herculane.

INTRODUCTION

Allonyx quadrimaculatus is a monotypic clerid genus, belonging to the Clerinae subfamily. The chorology (Taglianti et al., 1992) (European-Mediterranean chorotype) and the range limits of the genus (Fig. 1 c) in the Western Palaearctic coincides with the ones of *Pinus* but the clerid species, thermophilous, can be found only in the parts of the tree species range where the mean annual temperatures approaches to sub-Mediterranean values.

The known range of the species is a possible discontinuous-type one (Fig. 1 c), but, based on the collecting data of the specimen investigated, we can suppose that it may be continuous.

It is a thermophilous species, living on the bark of various species of *Pinus*, where it hunts small xylophagous coleoptera and *Aradus* sp. larvae (Heteroptera) and flies quickly when disturbed. It is attracted by the terpenoids secreted by the tree and it has also been reported from resin pots. The flight period lasts from mid-May to the end of June (Fleischer, 1891).

The Nature Park “Domogled – Valea Cernei” has peculiar faunistic and floristic aspects, due to the fact that here there is a sub-Mediterranean climate (Toader & Megan, 2005), similar to some other locations in Romania, such Southern Dobrogea, the Banat plain and the Olt – Râmnicu Vâlcea defile. This park is known primarily for its *Pinus nigra* ssp. *banatica* forests, of which the major part is situated on the left slope of the Cerna valley.

In this area it can be found a rich fauna, partly generated by the local climate, partly by the floral associations. As the range of *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783) (Fig. 1) (Corporaal, 1955; Gerstmeier, 1998) superposes with the one of *Pinus* sp. and to the one of *Pinus nigra* (Toader & Megan, 2005), in association with the

warm sub-Mediterranean climate, the presence of this species is not a surprising phenomenon here.

In the consulted literature, there are no records of the species for Romania. Following the investigation of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History Bucharest (Bucharest) collection, it has been found one specimen collected by Dr. Nicolae Săvulescu at Băile Herculane in the Caraș-Severin County in the 15th of June 1952, which has been identified as belonging to this species.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The used identification key is the latest one concerning the Western Palaearctic clerid taxa (Corporaal, 1955), and includes illustrations for the most used morphological characters, ranges for the species, as well as bibliography concerning the nomenclature, distribution and morphology which is not indexed in the Corporaal’s catalogue, or which appeared after the edition of this one.

The Cleridae scientific collection of the “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History (MGAB) contains most of the clerid species living in Romania. A big part of the material was collected by Dr. Nicolae Săvulescu, one of the most valuable collaborators of the Museum, and includes species otherwise quite rare in the collections.

The collection also contains specimens collected by other researchers, and has been enriched, revised and identified by the efforts of the Museum coleopterologists, Atena Roșca and Rodica Serafim, who have also collected a large amount of the specimens preserved in it.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Order Coleoptera
Suborder Polyphaga
Family Cleridae Latreille, 1802
Subfamily Clerinae Latreille, 1802

Allonyx quadrimaculatus (Schaller, 1783)
(Fig. 1)

Material examined. 1 specimen, Băile Herculane, 15.VI.1952, leg. Dr. N. Săvulescu, coll. “Grigore Antipa” National Museum of Natural History, Bucharest.

The insect (Fig. 1 a, b) is mounted on a rectangular cardboard, with the appendices ± folded towards the body, except the antennae. From the bottom to top of the No. 2 entomological pin: a machine-printed label imprinted “Colecția Dr. N. Săvulescu” (The “Dr. N. Săvulescu collection”), a partially printed label with the inscription “B. Herculane / 15.VI.1952 / Dr. N. Săvulescu” (The *italic characters* represents the handwriting part). Beneath the piece a handwriting label bearing the inscription “*Allonyx quadrimaculatus*” was found, which suggests that the specimen was previously identified by Rodica Serafim or Atena Roșca, who both worked on the Cleridae collection of the museum. The specimen was identified by one or both the above mentioned researchers, the role of this paper being both the recording of the species and the acknowledgement of their work.

Diagnosis (based on Gerstmeier, 1998). Body elongate. Head large, eyes scarcely emarginate anteriorly. Black elytra provided with 4 pale yellow spots, two situated in the basal half of the elytra and two in the apical half. Distal segments of

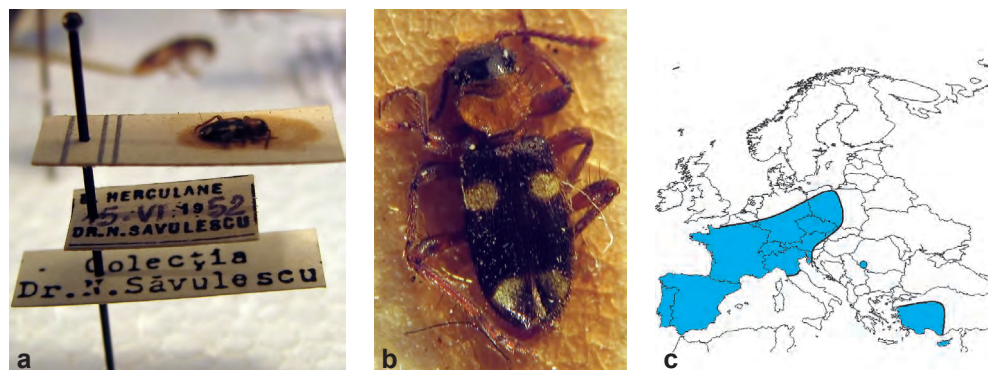


Fig. 1 - *Allonyx quadrimaculatus*. a, b, the studied specimen in MGAB collection (Photo P. L. Țibu); c, Western Palearctic distribution of the species, adapted from Gerstmeier (1998).

the maxillary palpi fusiform, those of the labial palpi large. Distal antennomeres expanded to form a very loose clava. First posterior tarsomere much shorter than the next one. Delicate claws not provided with basal denticle.

Body length approx. 4.5 mm. Head black, glossy (sometimes only the centro-apical part blackened). Pronotum reddish-brown, glossy, provided laterally with few long black setae. Elytra black, glossy, each of them bearing 2 pale yellow spots, the anterior one situated transversally antemedian, the posterior one transverse-ovate situated in the posterior 1/4 of the elytron.

The diagnostic characters (Fig. 1 b), on which basis the identification was carried, are: clavate antenna, the lax triarticulate clava, the apical antennomere sharpened, pronotum posteriorly constricted, apex rounded, transverse impression arcuate, the elytral pattern, the pubescence, the elytra punctuation, the head coloration and the lack of the basillar denticle of the claws.

Distribution. Central and Southern Europe, Cyprus, Asia Minor (Gerstmeier, 1998) (Fig. 1 c).

Conclusions

The existence of *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783) in Romania is established. Further field collection and the careful examination of southeastern European museum holdings are needed to establish the actual range and natural history of this species in Romania.

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PRIMA SEMNALARE A SPECIEI *ALLONYX QUADRIMACULATUS* (INSECTA:
COLEOPTERA: CLERIDAE) ÎN ROMÂNIA, DIN COLECȚIILE ȘTIINȚIFICE
ALE MUZEULUI NAȚIONAL DE ISTORIE NATURALĂ "GRIGORE ANTIPA"
(BUCUREȘTI)

REZUMAT

Datele de colectare pentru specia *Allonyx quadrimaculatus* (Schaller, 1783) indică un areal discontinuu al acestei specii; aceasta nu a fost semnalată până acum în România. Pe baza unui exemplar colectat de către Dr. Nicolae Săvulescu în anul 1952 la Băile Herculane, identificat în colecția de coleoptere a Muzeului Național de Istorie Naturală „Grigore Antipa“ din București, se confirmă prezența acestei specii în România.

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