

Koleopterologische Rundschau	61	157 - 158	Wien, Juli 1991
------------------------------	----	-----------	-----------------

***Potamophilus acuminatus* (F.) - not extinct in Central Europe!**

(Coleoptera: Elmidae)

J. KODADA

Abstract

Potamophilus acuminatus (F.) was recently collected in Slovakia in 1984 and 1990. The species occurs in small scattered populations and is not extinct as previously believed.

The riffle beetle *Potamophilus acuminatus* (F.) belongs to the subfamily Larinae, which includes 17 genera with about 100 described species distributed throughout the world. Representatives of 5 genera occur in the Palearctic region, one of them (*Potamophilus*) in Europe. The surface of the adult is covered with hydrophobic setae keeping air in a bubble on the body of the beetle. The species are amphibic, spending a large part of their life under water.

Potamophilus acuminatus had been described by FABRICIUS (1792) from the river Saale near Halle (Germany). It was known from many European localities, although relatively rare. DUFOR (1860) studied the larva of this species, and its description was completed by the description of the pupa by BERTRAND (1954). Larvae are xylophagous, living on submerged wood. In contrast to Dryops larvae, they have well developed retractile gills in the anal region. Pupation takes place inside the wood (BERTRAND 1954). They are morphologically adapted to live in flowing water with a higher oxygen content. Adults (6.5 - 8.5 mm) may be found on submerged old wood.

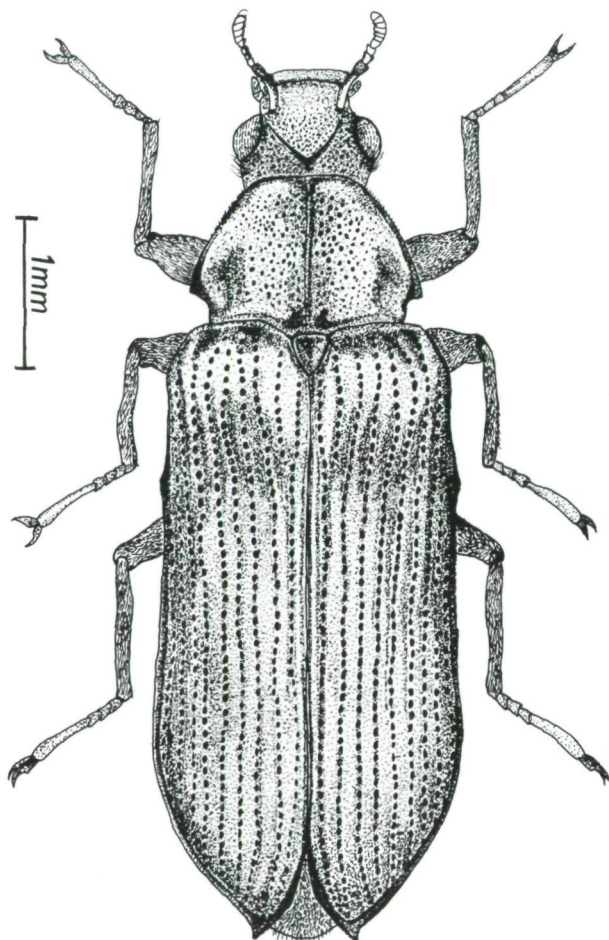
HORION (1955) states that this species occurs in Central Europe very sporadically, the distribution being discontinual, insular. One of the last findings was in the river Mulde near Dessau (Germany), where it was caught in 1938 for the last time in that country (HORION 1955). At the present time we can consider this species, together with species of the genera *Stenelmis* and *Normandia*, to be on the verge of extinction in Central Europe. This is mainly caused by the pollution and destruction of rivers and their shores. Places suitable for reproduction disappear year after year.

One of the latest records (BRTEK & ROTHSCHIEIN 1964) applies to one larva found in the Danube above the estuary of the river Ipel (Slovakia), another record is that of one adult found by Mr. Maidl in 1984 (Slovakia, Hronský Beňadik, 5th July), deposited in his collection in the Slovak National Museum (Bratislava). In 1984 I succeeded in finding 1 ♀ in Romania, in the settlement Carasova on the river Caras.

A big surprise was the finding of 1 ♂ (April 1990) on the left side of the Danube below Bratislava (in coll. Kodada). It sat on a piece of wood obviously having floated down from an upstream area. These data from recent years suggest that this species did not die out in eastern Central Europe and that it still survives in scattered local populations.

Zusammenfassung

Potamophilus acuminatus (F.) ist in Mitteleuropa offensichtlich noch nicht ausgestorben. Rezente Funde aus der Slowakei (1984 und 1990) werden diskutiert.



Potamophilus acuminatus, ♂, Habitus.

References

- BERTRAND, H., 1954: Les insectes aquatiques d'Europe, Vol. I., Encyclopedie Entomologique XXX, Paris pp.1-556.
- BRTEK, J. & J. ROTHSCHEIN, 1964: Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Hydrofauna und des Reinheitszustandes des tschechoslovakischen Abschnittes der Donau. - Biologické práce (Bratislava) X(5): 5-61.
- HORION, A.D., 1955: Faunistik der Mitteleuropäischen Käfer IV. Entomologische Arbeiten aus dem Museum G. Frey. Tutzing bei München, pp.1-280.

Address of the author:

Dr. J. Kodada, Department of Zoology, Comenius University, Mlynská dolina B-1, 842 15 Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Koleopterologische Rundschau](#)

Jahr/Year: 1991

Band/Volume: [61_1991](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Kodada Jan

Artikel/Article: [Potamophilus acuminatus \(F.\) - not extinct in Central Europe! \(Coleoptera: Elmidae\). 157-158](#)