

NOTES ON DISTRIBUTION, BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY
OF *PARACLYTUS SEXGUTTATUS*
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

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The relict genus *Paraclytus* Bates, 1884 includes less than 10 species with limited areas in Caucasus, North Iran and adjacent regions, Chine, Japan and Sakhalin Island. The most numerous and widely distributed of them - *P. sexguttatus* (Adams, 1817) - occurs in Caucasus, Azerbaijan, Northeast Turkey and North Iran (Plaviltshikov 1940).

In 2000, *P. sexguttatus* was established in Bulgaria (Georgiev & Stojanova 2003). With exception of North Caucasus, the finding in Bulgaria was the first report of the genus and species in Europe. The biological material was collected with Malaise trap in Strandzha Mt. - Vitanovo Reserve near town of Malko Tarnovo. In 2001, *P. sexguttatus* was established in Turkish part of Strandzha - Demirköy in Kırklareli Province (Kurzava 2007) (fig. 1). It is interesting to note that in the same region, Temmuz near Demirköy, a specimen was collected in 1993 (Özdikmen & Demir 2006). In Anatolia only 2 localities of the species are known: Saçinka in Artvin Province (Northeast Turkey) and Akçaalan near Abant lake in Bolu Province (Central North Turkey) (Özdikmen & Demir 2006; Özdikmen, 2007).

The records of *P. sexguttatus* in Anatolia and Strandzha Mt. characterize the species as South-Pontian element with dispersal centre Caucasus. The representatives of Euxinian zoogeographical group are relict forest species, originated from Eastern and Southern Black seacoasts, and the widely spread of them reach northern parts of Asia Minor or eastern parts of Balkan Peninsula (Gruev & Kuzmanov 1988). *P. sexguttatus* could be introduced with infested wood from Asia Minor but it most probably is naturally distributed in Strandzha Mt. The recently establishment in Southeast Europe could be explained with scarcity of the species in the periphery of its geographi-

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Fig. 1 – Localities of *Paraclytus sexguttatus* in Europe.

cal range. Main localities of *P. sexguttatus* should occur in Turkish part of Strandzha Mt., which is still not well studied.

P. sexguttatus develops for 2-3 years (Hoskovec & Rejzek 2007). Adults appear from midJune to end of August (Plaviltshikov 1940). They feed on pollen and visit flowers. In Turkey the species was collected on flowering hawthorn (*Crataegus*) (Hoskovec & Rejzek 2007; Kurzava personal communication).

P. sexguttatus is a polyphage on decaying and dead deciduous trees. Plaviltshikov (1940) noted that the species occurs mainly in the mountains and connected its distribution with oak (*Quercus* spp.) forests. However, other authors (Mamaev & Danilevsky 1975; Danilevsky & Miroshnikov 1985) pointed (*Fagus sylvatica orientalis* Lipsky) as preferred trophic plant of *P. sexguttatus*.

In conclusion it could be noted that in Caucasus *P. sexguttatus* is not a calamity species and has never been observed as a pest. In Asia Minor and Southeast Europe it is less numerous and there is no threat for the forest ecosystems. This relict and rare species has very significant conservation value and must be regarded as an element of biodiversity and faunistical richness of Europe.

SUMMARY

Distribution of *Paraclytus sexguttatus* (Adams, 1817) is analyzed in connection with establishment of localities in Bulgaria and Turkey. It is regarded as South-Pontian species with dispersal center Caucasus. Main biological and ecological characteristics of the species are given.

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