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**NEW OF *PHILORHIZUS MELANOCEPHALUS* (DEJEAN, 1825)
(COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE) NW POLAND**

Abstract

New distributional data concerning rare species *Philorhizus melanocephalus* are provided. specimens caught in NW Poland in 1996–2012 in 6 new localities. Probably Vistula river valley is a north-east border of main distribution area.

Keywords: *Philorhizus melanocephalus*, rare species, new records, NW Poland

Introduction

Philorhizus melanocephalus (Dej.) belongs to the carabid family (*Carabidae* Latr.) and within it to the subfamily *Harpalinae* Bon., the tribe *Lebiini* Bon. and the subtribe *Dromiina* Bon. (Stachowiak 2008). It is distinguished from the other representatives of the family in Polish fauna (*Ph. quadrisignatus* (Dej.), *Ph. sigma* (Rossi) and *Ph. notatus* (Steph.)) by its lack of dark marks on the elytra.

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The area occupied by the species includes the Mediterranean region, the Near East and the Caucasus, as far as Azerbaijan to the east, and western and central Europe, up to and including the southern part of Scandinavia to the north (Kabak 2003).

In Poland, as in the rest of central Europe, *Ph. melanocephalus* is a very seldom encountered species and had not been recorded for nearly 40 years. It had previously been observed on the Baltic Coast, in the Pomeranian Lake District, in the Wielkopolsko-Kujawska Lowland, in Lower Silesia, in the Świętokrzyskie Mountains and in the Roztocze region (Burakowski et al. 1974; <http://dbtest.bio-map.pl> 2015). The available information indicates that it is not found beyond the Vistula River valley to the east, which confirms the opinion of Silfverberg (2004), who removed it from the list of species recorded in Estonia (Haberman 1952).

In light of the few records of the species in Poland, which date back many years, we present information confirming its presence in the fauna of Poland, including several new sites on the Baltic Coast and in the Pomeranian Lake District.

Material examined

The Baltic Coast

- Hel (N 54.6180 E 18.8102), UTM: CF55; 19.06.1996, 1 ♂, macropterous, leg. M. Stachowiak; psammophilic vegetation,
- Dębki (N 54.8324 E 18.1024), UTM: CF18; 3.06.2001, 2 exx. (1 ♂ and 1 ♀), leg. A. Król, macropterous, in a depression between dunes,
- Darłówko (N 54.4102 E 16.3460), UTM: WA83; 21.06.1998, 1 ♂, macropterous, leg. R. Morawiec,
- Wiselka (N 53.9834 E 14.5811), UTM: VV78; 23.05.1994, 1 ♀, macropterous, leg. M. Stachowiak.

Pomeranian Lake District

- Łówcz Górny (N 54.51667 E 17.97389), UTM: XA94; 14.05.2012, 1 ♀, macropterous, leg. Ł. Baran; fertile beech forest, caught in a Barber trap with ethylene glycol solution,

- Przytarnia ad Wiele (N 53.9406 E 17.8734), UTM: XV88; 18.05.2001, 1 ♀, macropterous, leg. P. Janicki, psammophilic vegetation at the edge of a young pine forest.

Remarks

The observations made by the second author indicate that *Ph. melanocephalus* is a species that prefers open, dry habitats with a mineral substrate – coastal dunes and psammophilic vegetation. It is less often encountered in shaded places and on the edges of moist areas, including peat bogs. Lindroth (1949) classifies it as mesoxerophilous, while according to Müller-Motzfeld (1983) it is characteristic of coastal dunes. In Great Britain it has mostly been found in dry meadows, moors, dunes, sandpits and gravel pits (Luff et al. 1992), but also in urbanized areas (Mabbott 2000). It was recorded by Kielhorn (2005) in ruderal habitats in Berlin.

These beetles are presumably so rarely caught because *Ph. melanocephalus* leads a secretive life among grasses and other herbaceous plants or under patches of moss, fallen leaves and plant residue. They rarely fall into traps and when they do are able to escape them if they are not filled with a preservative solution. The delicate body structure of *Ph. melanocephalus* is also not conducive to catching them in traps; beetles that have been caught generally decompose very rapidly, even in preservative solution.

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**NOWE INFORMACJE O WYSTĘPOWANIU *PHILORHIZUS*
MELANOCEPHALUS (DEJEAN, 1825) (COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE)
W PÓŁNOCNO-ZACHODNIEJ POLSCE**

Streszczenie

Przedstawiono nowe dane o występowaniu rzadkiego gatunku *Philorhizus melanocephalus* (Carabidae) w północno-zachodniej Polsce. Kilka okazów w 6 miejscowościach złowiono w latach 1996–2012. Prawdopodobnie dolina Wisły jest północno-wschodnią granicą jego zasięgu.

Słowa kluczowe: *Philorhizus melanocephalus*, rzadki gatunek, nowe dane, północno-zachodnia Polska

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