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NEW AND LITTLE KNOWN CERAMBYCIDAE (*Coleoptera Chrysomeloidea*)  
FROM PANTELLERIA ISLAND (SICILY CHANNEL, ITALY)

SUMMARY

In the present paper, we report new data of two species of Cerambycidae (*Coleoptera Chrysomeloidea*) collected on the Pantelleria Island (Sicilian Channel, Italy). Particularly, we confirm the presence of *Trichoferus holosericeus* (Rossi, 1790) and report a new record of *Cephalocrius syriacus* (Reitter, 1895).

*Key words:* longhorn beetles, xylophagous, zoogeography.

RIASSUNTO

*Cerambycidae (Coleoptera Chrysomeloidea) nuovi e poco conosciuti dell'isola di Pantelleria (Canale di Sicilia, Italia).* In questa nota riportiamo nuovi dati di due specie di Cerambycidae raccolte sull'isola di Pantelleria (Canale di Sicilia, Italia). In particolare, la presenza di *Trichoferus holosericeus* (Rossi, 1790) è confermata e *Cephalocrius syriacus* (Reitter, 1895) è riportato come nuovo record

*Parole chiave:* cerambicidi, xilofagi, zoogeografia.

INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the naturalistic research carried out on the Pantelleria island (Sicilian Channel, Central Mediterranean Sea, Italy), allowed us to obtain new taxonomic, distributional and biological observations of the beetle community inhabiting this island (SPARACIO & LA MANTIA, 2018). In the present work, we report new data of two longhorn beetles species (*Coleoptera*

Chrysomeloidea Cerambycidae) collected in Pantelleria, confirming the presence of *Trichoferus holosericeus* (Rossi, 1790) and adding a new record of *Cephalocrius syriacus* (Reitter, 1895); cfr. RATTI, 1987; ROMANO & SPARACIO, 1995; BAVIERA *et al.*, 2017.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Both species were collected in early August 2019 through random walking in the locality of Montagna Grande (800 meters above sea level) in a mixed forest composed mostly by holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and maritime pine (*Pinus pinaster* subsp. *hamiltonii*), partly affected by a fire in May 2016.

## RESULTS

### *Systematics*

Order COLEOPTERA Linnaeus, 1758  
Superfamily CHRYSOMELOIDEA Latreille, 1802  
Family CERAMBYCIDAE Latreille, 1802  
Subfamily SPONDYLIDINAE Audinet-Serville, 1832  
Tribus ASEMINI Zgajkevich, 1991  
Genus *Cephalocrius* Sharp, 1905

### *Cephalocrius syriacus* (Reitter, 1895)

**Examined material.** Italy, Pantelleria, Loc. Montagna Grande 9/VIII/2019, 1 ex (leg. T. La Mantia, R. da Silveira Bueno)

**Description.** Length 13 mm. Body reddish-brown. Antennae of medium length. Eyes protruding, without hairs between the facets. Each elytron with 2-3 less distinct longitudinal costae and with apex rounded. Hind tarsus with third segment bilobed nearly to the base. For differential diagnosis with similar species see BENSE (1995).

**Distribution and Biology.** The chorotype is Mediterranean but it is known also for Australia (BROWN, 1968) where it is a potential pine pest (WEBB & ELDRIDGE, 1997). This species is thermophilic e xerophilic, nocturnal and monophagous on *Pinus*. It is present in whole Italy and in expansion accordingly with CONTARINI & GARAGNANI (1981), contrarily to *Arhopalus ferus* (Mulsant, 1839), a similar species but more hygrophilous and in decline.

*C. syriacus* usually lives in coastal areas, but it is also present in the continental pine forests, up to the Apennine reforestation areas, at least in northern center Italy (CONTARINI & GARAGNANI, 1981).

*Cephalocrius syriacus* colonize debilitated plants, from the roots up to the trunk. It can settle along the stem up to a few meters in height where it competes with other bark beetles like *Ips sexdentatus* (Boerner, 1767), *Tomicus destruens* (Wollaston, 1865) and *Orthotomicus erosus* (Wollaston, 1857). On Pantelleria *C. syriacus* was collected on the ground and under the bark of the trunk of a dead holm oak, probably occasional refuge.

Status and Conservation. Least Concern (LC) in the Italian and European Saproxilic Coleoptera IUCN Red List (RAPUZZI *et al.*, 2014; CÁLIX *et al.*, 2018).

**Remarks.** In Sicily, *C. syriacus* is considered uncommon species and has been recorded in Monte Pellegrino (Palermo) (SAMA, 2005), Levanzo (SIDOTI & COLLETTI, 2005), Bosco di Santo Pietro (Catania) (SIDOTI & COLLETTI, 2006), eastern Sicily, Peloritani and Aeolian Islands (BAVIERA *et al.*, 2017). This is a new record for Pantelleria Island.

Subfamily CERAMBYCINAE Latreille, 1802

Tribus HESPEROPHANINI Mulsant, 1839

Genus *Trichoferus* Wollaston, 1854

***Trichoferus holosericeus*** (Rossi, 1790)

**Examined material.** Italy, Pantelleria, Loc. Montagna Grande 8/VIII/2019, 3 ex (leg. T. La Mantia, R. da Silveira Bueno)

Description. Length 19-21 mm. Body reddish-brown. Antennae medium length. Elytra with only background pubescence grey and mottled, without long erect hairs. For differential diagnosis with similar species see BENSE (1995).

Distribution and Biology. *Trichoferus holosericeus* is widespread in the Mediterranean area, including mainland Italy, Sardinia and Sicily (CRIVELLARO, 2005; SAMA, 1988, 2005; BAVIERA *et al.*, 2017). This species is a wood-feeder Cerambycidae, growing also in wooden artefacts. It is poliphagous on numerous host plants, particularly broadleaf of the genera *Quercus*, *Castanea*, *Fagus*, *Pistacia*, *Ficus*, *Prunus*, *Juglans*, *Ostrya*, *Ulmus*, *Robinia*, *Salix*, *Populus*,

*Citrus*, *Alnus* and *Betula*. On Pantelleria, the individuals were found under the bark of a partially burned holm oak.

Status and Conservation. Least Concern (LC) in the Italian and European Saproxylic Coleoptera IUCN Red List (RAPUZZI *et al.*, 2014; CÁLIX *et al.*, 2018).

**Remarks.** *Trichoferus holosericeus* has been reported on Pantelleria (RATTI, 1987 sub *T. cinereus*) where one specimen was attracted by artificial light.

## CONCLUSION

The research conducted in recent years on the beetles community of Pantelleria (SPARACIO & LA MANTIA, 2018) confirms the importance of this island and demonstrates how the coleopterological fauna and their ecology is still largely unknown, with particular reference to the species living in forest habitats.

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