

Short scientific note

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First records of the rare minute tree-fungus beetle *Cisarthon laevicolle* from Italy and Greece (Coleoptera: Ciidae)

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Abstract

The rare South-European beetle *Cisarthon laevicolle* Reitter, 1885 is here reported for the first time from Italy and Greece. The currently known distribution, ecology and phenology of this species are briefly discussed.

Keywords: saproxylic beetles, Ciidae, Italy, Greece, new records.

Introduction

Cisarthon Reitter, 1885 is a monotypic genus easily recognizable within the Ciidae by having antennae 9-segmented with 2-segmented club, third antennal segment extraordinarily small, as long as wide, shorter than the fourth, and strongly transverse pronotum. It could be confused with the apparently closely related genus *Diphyllocis* Reitter, 1885 which, however, differs from *Cisarthon* in several respects: third antennal segment elongate, distinctly longer than wide, and longer than the fourth, pronotum barely transverse, different sculpture of pronotum and elytra, different chaetotaxy (Reitter 1885, 1902; Ponel & Rose 2010; Rose 2012).

Cisarthon laevicolle Reitter, 1885 is a rare and little-known species, hitherto never reported from Italy and Greece.

Materials and Methods

The Italian specimens reported in this study were collected in the framework of the projects “Piani di Gestione della ZPS ‘Parco Nazionale del Circeo’ e SIC inclusi”, carried out in 2013, and “Monitoraggio presenza e consistenza degli artropodi di interesse comunitario nel Parco Nazionale del Circeo”, launched in 2021 and currently in progress. The data from Greece has kindly been made available to us by our friend and colleague Johannes Reibnitz.

Botanical nomenclature follows Bartolucci et al. (2018) and Species Fungorum (2021).

Acronyms of repository collections:

ABB A.B. Biscaccianti’s personal collection, Rome, Italy;
JRC J. Reibnitz’s personal collection, Tamm, Germany.

Results

Cisarthon laevicolle Reitter, 1885

Material examined. Italy: Lazio, Circeo National Park, Sabaudia (Latina province), Selva di Circe, Fosso Folaga Morta, 41°18’41.9”N, 13°2’26.6”E, 20 m, 26 Apr 2013, on *Trichaptum bifforme* (Fr.) Ryvarden, A.B. Biscaccianti leg., 1 ♂ (ABB); **Italy: Lazio**, Circeo National Park, Sabaudia (Latina province), Selva Piana, 41°14’46.2”N, 13°3’13.4”E, 16 m, 17 May–14 Jun 2022, bottle trap on *Quercus frainetto* Ten., A.B. Biscaccianti leg., 1 ♀ (ABB). **Greece: Achaia**, Peloponnese, Kalavryta, approx. 38°1’35”N, 22°6’35”E, 10 Oct 1998, B. Büche leg. (JRC).

Discussion

Cisarthon laevicolle Reitter, 1885 (Fig. 1) exhibits a S-European chorotype (sensu Vigna Taglianti et al. 1999): it is known from south-eastern France (Ponel & Rose 2010; Rose

2012, 2014; J. Reibnitz pers. comm.), central Italy (present paper), southern Bosnia Herzegovina (Reitter 1885, 1902; Della Torre 1911), south-western Greece (Peloponnese: present paper), south-western Romania, north-eastern European Turkey (Królik 2020a), and western Caucasian region (Reitter 1902; Della Torre 1911; Jakobson 1915; see also Królik 2020b). The species may also be present in Spain.

Ecology and biology of *C. laevicolle* are poorly known, it is only known that the species develops on *Trichaptum biforme* (Fr.) Ryvarden (Ponel & Rose 2010; J. Reibnitz pers. comm.; present paper). The habitat of *C. laevicolle* in the Italian study area is represented by small clearings in lowland forests. The site of “Selva di Circe” is a relic of the ancient coastal oak forest, largely dominated by *Quercus cerris* L. and *Q. frainetto* Ten., referred to as Teucro siculi-Quercion cerridis alliance, or with *Q. robur* L. subsp. *robur* and *Fraxinus angustifolia* Vahl subsp. *oxycarpa* (M.Bieb. ex Willd.) Franco & Rocha Afonso, in the temporary marshy areas (the so-called “piscine”), vegetation referred to the central-Tyrrhenian endemic association Veronico scutellatae-Quercetum roboris (Stanisci & Zerunian 1998; Blasi et al. 2000). The site of “Selva Piana” is a mosaic of fragments of the ancient cork oak wood growing at the lower altitudes and in the plain of the northern side of the Circeo promontory, referred to as Quercetum frainetto-suberis association (Stanisci & Zerunian 1998; Blasi et al. 2000).

According to the literature (Reitter 1885; Ponel & Rose 2010; Rose 2012; Królik 2020a) and our records, adults of *C. laevicolle* are active from March to October.

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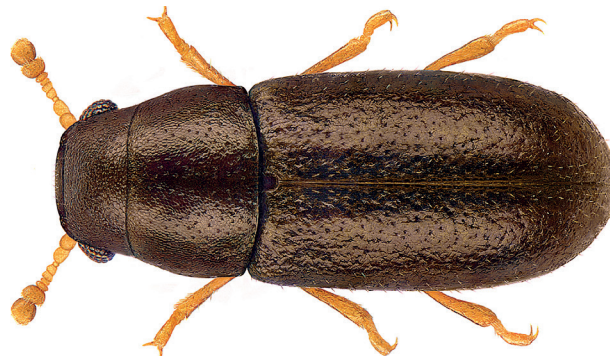


Fig. 1 – Male of *Cisarthron laevicolle* Reitter, 1885 (courtesy of J. Reibnitz).