FOLIA HISTORICO NATURALIA MUSEI MATRAENSIS
2012 36: 29–30

Two new host plant species of *Parmena bicincta* Küster, 1849 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

Tibor Kovács

Abstract: Two new host plant species of *Parmena bicincta* representing new families are recorded: *Agave americana* (Agavaceae) and *Crihtmum maritimum* (Apiaceae). With two figures.

Kovács et al. (1999) published host plants of three *Parmena* species, i.e. *Parmena bicincta* Küster, 1849 from *Ficus carica*; *P. pubescens pilosa* Brullé, 1832 from *Crithmum maritimum* and *Euphorbia wulfenii*; *P. unifasciata* (Rossi, 1790) from *Ficus carica*, *Hedera helix*, *Juglans regia* and *Quercus* sp. Of these, *Ficus carica* was a new host plant for *P. bicincta*, while *Juglans regia* and *Quercus* sp. for *P. unifasciata* (cf. Bense 1995, Brelih et al. 2006, Sama 1984, 1985, 2002).

Known host plant species for *Parmena bicincta*: *Euphorbia wulfenii* (Bense 1995, Sama 1985) and *Ficus carica* (Kovács et al. 1999).

New host plant data: Croatia, Hvar, Hvar, Križni rat, N43°09'48.02", E16°26'44.95", 20 m, 26.07.2005.>22.06.2006, *Agave americana*, 1 adult female, Kovács, T. (Mátra Museum, Gyöngyös) – Rovanjska, N44°14'53.41", E15°32'16.40", 2 m, 05.05.2006>28.06.2006, 1 adult male, *Chritmum maritimum*, Kovács, T. (Mátra Museum, Gyöngyös).



Fig. 1. *Agave americana* with live and dead bloom.
Arrow indicating place of developing beetle in the plant (photo Dóra Kovács)

Rarity of *Parmena bicincta* may be the cause of the low number of known host plant species, since this beetle develops in both herbaceous (*Euphorbia wulfenii* – Euphorbiaceae) and woody plants (*Ficus carica* – Moraceae). One of its new host plants, *Chritmum maritimum* (Apiaceae)

is herbaceous, while the other is the monocotyledonous *Agave americana* (formerly Agavaceae, now Asparagaceae) (Fig. 1), which is introduced from Central America and established in the Mediterranean. The larva in *C. maritimun* bored in the base of the stem, first beneath the epidermis then deeper where pupation took place (Fig. 2a). In *A. americana* the larva bored in one of the stalks of dead inflorescence beneath the epidermis and pupated there (Fig. 2b). This type of larval burrowing is similar to those in woody host plant (*Ficus carica*).

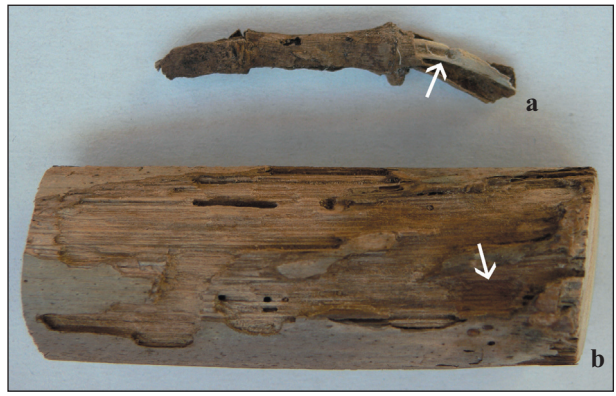


Fig. 2a–b. Burrows of *Parnena bicincta*, a = *Chritmum maritimum*, b = *Agave americana.* Arrows indicating place of pupation

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to Ottó Merkl (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest) for linguistic help. Thanks are due to Dóra Kovács (Gyöngyös) and Tamás Németh (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest) for assistance about the photographs.

References

Bense, U. (1995): Longhorn beetles, Illustrated Key to the Cerambycidae and Vesperidae of Europe. – Margraf Verlag, Weikersheim, 512 pp.

Brelih, S., Drovenik, B. & Pirnat, A. (2006): Material for the Beetle Fauna (Coleoptera) of Slovenia: 2nd contribution: Polyphaga: Chrysomeloidea (= Phytophaga): Cerambycidae. – Scopolia, 58: 1–442.

Kovács, T., Hegyessy, G. & Medvegy, M. (1999): Foodplant data of longhorn beetles from Europe (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). – Folia Historico-naturalia Musei Matraensis, 23: 333–339.

Sama, G. (1984): Studi sul genere Parmena Latreille, 1829 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) (Prima parte). – Rivista Piemontese di Storia Naturale, 5: 205–230.

Sama, G. (1985): Studi sul genere Parmena Latreille, 1829 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) (Seconda parte). – Rivista Piemontese di Storia Naturale, 6: 69–84.

Sama, G. (2002): Atlas of the Cerambycidae of Europe and the Mediterranean Area. Volume 1: Northern, Western, Central and Eastern Europe, British Isles and Continental Europe from France (excl. Corsica) to Scandinavia and Urals. – Nakladatelství Kabourek, Zlín, 173 pp.

Tibor Kovács
Mátra Museum
H-3200 Gyöngyös, Hungary
Kossuth Lajos u. 40.
E-mail: koati@t-online.hu