

EMUS HIRTUS IN SLOVAKIA – ON THE RECENT OCCURRENCE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES (COLEOPTERA: STAPHYLINIDAE)

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KOČÁREK, P., 2000: *Emus hirtus* in Slovakia – on the recent occurrence of endangered species (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae). *Entomofauna carpathica*. 12: 34-36

Abstract: Data on the distribution of the rove beetle *Emus hirtus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the territory of Slovakia are presented and evaluated. The occurrence was found altogether in 31 localities. The disappearing of this species in large areas of Central Europe is caused mainly by the restriction of the pastoralism in lowlands and warmer submontane areas. In the territory of Slovakia, the natural pastoralism was practised continually for the long time, that is why the stable populations still survive at some warmer regions in the central and eastern parts of the territory.

Key words: Staphylinidae, *Emus hirtus*, faunistics, Slovakia.

INTRODUCTION

Emus hirtus (Linnaeus, 1758) is distributed from South, Central and southern North Europe to the Middle Asia and Siberia; in central part of Europe it is known from Hungary, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland (HORION 1965, SMETANA 1958, SZUJECKI 1980).

This rove beetle is a coprophilous species inhabiting natural pastures where it feeds on the larvae of coprophagous Coleoptera and Diptera. In the 20th century it started to disappear in the majority of European countries in connection with the restriction of natural pasturage. In the last decades it became rare in several central European countries as Poland (HORION 1965, BURAKOWSKI at al. 1980), Czech Republic (ŠUSTEK 1995, KOČÁREK 1997) and Austria (JÄCH 1994). The species is still relatively abundant in the Slovak Republic, but there is a lack of exact published data of its recent distribution. That is why I have decided to publish the available faunistic data in this contribution.

Faunistic data so far known from the territory of Slovak Republic were summarised by ROUBAL (1930) and SMETANA (1958).

List of used abbreviations and collectors

CE = coll. Z. Černý (Mírovice), DV = coll. M. Dvořák (Praha), JE = coll. I. Jeniš (Náklo), KO = coll. M. Kocián (Praha), KC = coll. P. Kočárek (Opava), KR = coll. P. Krásenský (Chomutov), NO = coll. V. Novák (Brandýs nad Labem), MA = coll. I. Martinů (Olomouc), MZ = coll. L. Mazal (Olomouc), MI = coll. L. Mikulénka (Třemešná ve Slezsku), SA = coll. O. Sabol (Ostrava), SE = coll. A. Sedláček (Hranice na Moravě), SZM = coll. Slezské zemské muzeum (Opava), SN = S. Snäll (Tumba, Sweden), ŠM = Šarišské múzeum (Bardejov), ŠU = coll. J. Šuhaj (Bohumín), TY = coll. V. Týr (Žihle), VA = coll. J. Ch. Vávra (Ostrava), VY = coll. V. Vyhňálek (Olomouc), ZU = coll. M. Zúber (Kosmonosy).

RESULTS

The occurrence of *Emus hirtus* in Slovakia was found altogether in 31 localities that correspond to 25 squares of Central European faunistic grid mapping (PRUNER & MÍKA 1996) (Fig. 1). Up to this time the occurrence was published from 11 localities (ROUBAL 1930, SMETANA 1958).

Published data. Roubal (1930) - Trnava [7671], Nové Mesto nad Váhom [7273], Bátovce [7778], Tajov [7280], Lučenec [7683], Košice [72-7393], Bradlo [7394]; Smetana (1958) - Bratislava [77-7968-69], Štúrovo [8178], Plešivec [7488], Vihorlat [70-7198-99].

Material examined. Štúrovo, Modrý vrch [8178], 1985. 1 specimen (MA); Plášťovce [7879], 1.VI.1984, 1 specimen. Šafanda leg. (SN); Dobrá Niva [7580], 7.VI.1995, 1 specimen D. Vacík leg. (JE), 9.VI.1993, 2 sp. [VA]; Babiná [7580], 9.-10.V.1999, 18 specimens. (KC, MZ, SA); Donovaly [7181], 6.VII.1957 (DV); Opatovská Nová Ves [7881], 18.V.1993, 1 specimen J. Plecháč leg. (KR); Hajnačka [7785], 5.V.1995, 1 specimen, P. Boža leg. (ŠU), 17.VII.1992, 2 specimens, 13.VII.1997, 1 specimen (ZU); Gemerské Dechtáre [7786], 6.V.1995, several specimens. P. Boža leg. (ŠU, VA); Rozložná [7388], 2.V.1987, 1 specimen. J. Vitner & V. Novák leg. (NO); Domica [7588], 29.V.1984 (JE); Kečovo. [7588], 7.V.1978, 1 specimen. S. Kalúz leg. I. Rychlík coll.: Dlhá Ves [7488], 1988, 1 specimen (MA), 1 specimen (JE), 23.VI.1994, 14 specimens. (MA), 25 specimens, (VY), 1 specimen (KR); Silica [7489], 28.VI.1957, 1 specimen (DV); Hrhov [7390], 7.VII.1992, 2 specimens (ZU); Turňa nad Bodvou [7391], 25.VI.1957, several specimens (DV); Zádiel [7391], 21.VI.1984, 1 specimen (JE), 4.VII.1991, 1 specimen (MI); Chlmec [7197], 2.V.1992, 1 specimen (TY); Choňkovce [7299], 2.VI.1984, 10 specimens, M. Janata leg. (KO, SN); Petrovce [72/7399], 25.V.1996, 4 specimens, T. Jászay (ŠM); Slov. or., Ruské, distr. Humeně [6800], 4.VI.1984, 1 specimen, J. Roháček leg. (SZM).

DISCUSSION

Emus hirtus is a predator of coprophagous insects which it is search mainly on cattle excrement. It occurs on regularly grazing grassy pastures with the high den-

sity of droppings in different stages of decomposition. The adults occupy droppings from the fresh to the middle dry stage with the greatest abundance in the fresh one. During the warm and calm weather the adults actively fly and look for optimal excrement.

The disappearing of this species in large areas of Central Europe is caused mainly by the restriction of the pastoralism in lowlands and warmer submontane areas. Extinction of this species has been reported in countries neighbouring to Czech Republic. During the 19th century the species was relatively abundant there (cf. e.g. KLUG 1855, MÜLLER 1862, LOKAY 1869, REITTER 1870), but in the 20th century it started to disappear in connection with the restriction of pastoralism in lowlands (KOČÁREK 1997). Now the natural pastoralism is practised predominantly in the montane areas with the suboptimal climatic conditions for the species. At present the species probably only migrates to these areas and constitute only unstable temporary populations in substitute habitats (KOČÁREK 1997). During the four last decades the species was found only three times at municipal dump or carrion (KOČÁREK 1997: Poděbrady [5856], Ostrava [6175]; Doubravice, Volyně env. [6848], 17.8.1974, S. Snäll leg. et coll.).

In the territory of Slovakia, the natural pastoralism was practised continually for the long time that is why the stable populations still survive at some warmer regions in the central and east parts of the territory. If the current natural or seminatural pasture practices continue, the species will not become endangered in Slovakia in the near future.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I'm obliged to all the colleagues named within the text for kindly providing me with the material of the rove beetle and RNDr I. Rychlík (Bratislava) for helpful suggestions.

SOUHRN

Emus hirtus na Slovensku – k současnému výskytu ohroženého druhu (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae).

V práci je hodnoceno současné rozšíření drabčička *Emus hirtus* na Slovensku. Jedná se o celoevropsky ohrožený druh vázaný na trus skotu, který mizí především z důvodu upouštění od tradičních forem pastevectví. Na základě zjištěných údajů je konstatováno, že stabilní populace tohoto druhu

přežívají v teplých oblastech středního a východního Slovenska.

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Přišlo 9.2.2000, akceptované 29.6.2000

