

Distribution of *Rhaesus serricollis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae) in the Mediterranean Region¹

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Abstract *Rhaesus serricollis* (Motschulsky) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae), a near-threatened species on the European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles, is reported from Dalmatia, Albania, Serbia, Macedonia in the Balkan peninsula to southern Greece, Bulgaria, Turkey, Iran, Syria, Israel, Cyprus, Caucasus, Georgia, Transcaucasia, the Near East, Lebanon, and North Africa. It also has been introduced into Egypt. In Turkey, it occurs in Adana, Antalya, Bilecik, Burdur, Denizli, Düzce, Hatay, İçel, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Konya, Muğla, and Osmaniye provinces and the Toros Mountains. Known host plants include *Castanea*, *Celtis* (Cannabaceae), *Fagus* (Fagaceae), *Ficus* (Moraceae), *Liquidambar* (Altingiaceae), *Liquidambar orientalis*, *Juglans* (Juglandoideae), *Juglans regia*, *Morus* (Moraceae), *Morus alba*, *Pinus brutia* (Pinaceae), *Pinus nigra*, *Platanus* (Platanaceae), *Platanus orientalis*, *Populus alba* (Salicaceae), *Quercus* (Fagaceae), *Quercus calliprinos*, *Quercus ithaburensis*, *Salix* (Salicaceae), and *Tilia* (Malvaceae).

Key Words *Rhaesus serricollis*, long-horned beetle, distribution, host plants

Rhaesus serricollis (Motschulsky) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae: Prioninae) is classified as “near threatened” on the European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles (Nieto and Alexander 2010). Assimilation of information on this species is critical to efforts to protect this species from extinction in the Mediterranean basin. The Mediterranean basin extends approximately 3,800 km east to west from the tip of Portugal to the shores of Lebanon and approximately 1,000 km north to south from Italy to Morocco and Libya. Within the European Union, the Mediterranean Region encompasses seven countries, either partially (France, Portugal, Italy, Spain) or completely (Greece, Malta, Cyprus) (Sundseth and Brussels 2009). The region is recognized for its floral and faunal biodiversity. Between 15,000 and 25,000 species of plants are distributed there, 60% of which are unique to the region. About one-third of the Mediterranean fauna is endemic (International Union for Conservation of Nature 2012). In many cases, information is incomplete regarding trends in biodiversity, especially with marine organisms, in the region; yet, there are sufficient data demonstrating that biodiversity in the region is at severe risk. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species,

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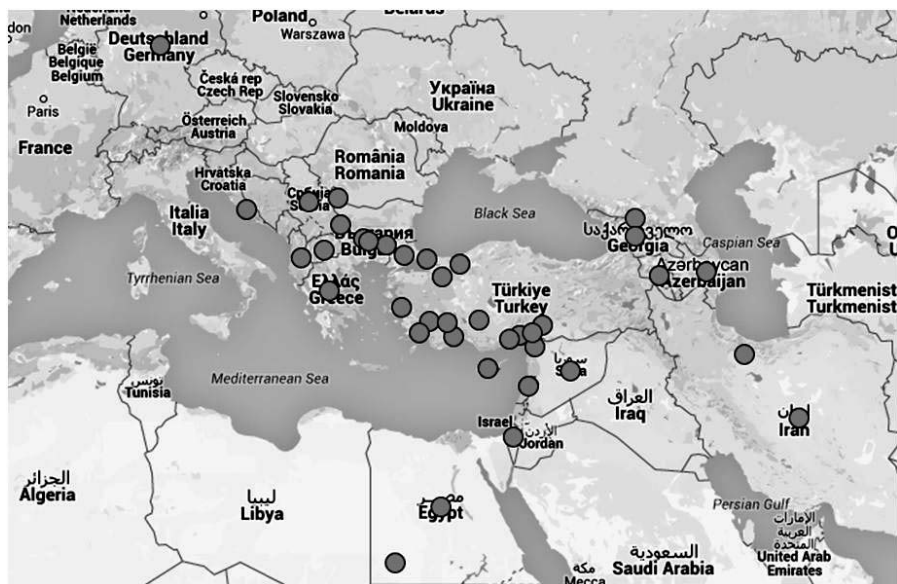


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Rhaesus serricollis* in provinces of Turkey, Mediterranean basin, and other countries.

19% of faunal species (amphibians, birds, cartilaginous fishes, endemic freshwater fishes, crabs and crayfish, mammals, dragonflies, and reptiles) are threatened with extinction (5% Critically Endangered, 7% Endangered, 7% Vulnerable) (Vlachogianni et al. 2012). Insect diversity in the region is also high, with most representatives in the Order Coleoptera. The coleopteran fauna of Turkey alone is estimated to include >25,000 species (Koçak and Kemal 2009).

Turkey plays an important geographic and ecological role in safeguarding biodiversity within its borders as well as in neighboring countries and regions. Turkey is positioned at an intersection of geographical regions with large climatic and geographical gradients as well as a diversity of ecosystems and habitats (International Union for Conservation of Nature 2012, Kahraman et al. 2011). Biodiversity in Turkey is under severe pressure, and region-wide conservation efforts must be implemented to avoid extinction of threatened species. Such conservation efforts can be aided by identification of emblematic umbrella species to help market, advertise, and generate public support.

Of the many habitats and species threatened in Turkey, the deadwood habitat of native broadleaf tree species is one that is under severe pressure (Avcı et al. 2010, Coşkun et al. 2010, Gürkan et al. 2010). *Rhaesus serricollis* is among the saproxylic beetles of that habitat and, in Europe, is considered Near Threatened (Nieto and Alexander 2010). Thus, the primary objective of this paper is to define the known distribution of this insect along with information on its ecological habits and host plants. In addition, a bibliography of previous studies related to this species is included.

Table 1. Distribution of *Rhaesus serricollis* in Turkey by province, with bibliographic citation of occurrence.

Province	Locality	Citations
Adana	Unreported	Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Adana	Bacalı–Karataş	Tozlu et al. 2002
Adana	Karaisahlı, Yedigözüleğen	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
Antalya	Alanya	Demelt 1963, Lodos 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012, Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998, Svacha and Danilevsky 1987
Antalya	Alanya–Bambus Camp	Adlbauer 1988
Antalya	Central–Çaltıcak–Finike (Turunçova)–Serik	Tozlu et al. 2002
Antalya	Manavgat, Demirciler village	Özdikmen 2007
Antalya	Toros Mountains (Elmah)	Villiers 1967
Bilecik	Unreported	Bodemeyer 1906, Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998
Burdur	Central	Tozlu et al. 2002
Denizli	Unreported	Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Denizli	Tavas	Gül-Zümreoğlu 1972
Düzce	Unreported	Özdikmen 2007, 2008; Özdikmen et al. 2012
Hatay	Unreported	Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Hatay	Akbez	Pic 1892
Hatay	Central–İskenderun (Cırtıman)	Tozlu et al. 2002
İçel	Unreported	Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012

Table 1. Continued.

Province	Locality	Citations
İçel	Erdemli (Karahasanlı village)	Özdikmen 2006
İçel	Erdemli–Tarsus	Tozlu et al. 2002
İçel	Erdemli, Karahıdırlı	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Silifke	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Mut, Alahan	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Tarsus, Ayvalı	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Tarsus, Karabucak	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Tarsus, Yenice highway	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Çamlıyayla, İledin top	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İçel	Karakoyak	Özdikmen 2011, Cihan 2013, Cihan et al. 2013
İstanbul	Unreported	Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
İstanbul	Polonez village	Acatay 1971, Tozlu et al. 2002
İzmir	Unreported	Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
İzmir	Bornova	Gül-Zümreoğlu 1972
İzmir	Bornova–Kemalpaşa	Gül-Zümreoğlu 1975
Kahramanmaraş	Unreported	Kanat 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Konya	Unreported	Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012

Table 1. Continued.

Province	Locality	Citations
Konya	Akşehir	Tozlu et al. 2002
Muğla	Unreported	Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Çanakçıoğlu and Mol 1998, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012, Lodos 1998
Muğla	Fethiye	Acatay 1971
Muğla	Marmaris	Öymen 1987
Osmaniye	Unreported	Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Osmaniye	Çona village, Issizca village Karaçay	Agras 2006, Bahadıroğlu et al. 2009
Osmaniye	Çona village, Bahçe Road	Güven 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Özdikmen et al. 2010
Osmaniye	Kadirli (Kabayar)	Tozlu et al. 2002
Turkey	Thrace, European	Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Özdikmen 2008, Özdikmen et al. 2012
Turkey		Danilevsky and Miroshnikov 1985, Önder et al. 1987, Miroshnikov 1998

Materials and Methods

A comprehensive review of the scientific literature was conducted to delineate the known distribution of *R. serricollis*. Host plants and ecological habits were recorded when available. Additional surveys for this insect were conducted by many researchers and are reported herein. We included information and data that are important in assessing the level of threat to the species. These protocols included geographic range, population data, and habitat preferences (International Union for Conservation of Nature 2012, Nieto and Alexander 2010).

Results and Discussion

Reported occurrence in Turkey. *Rhaesus serricollis* is reported as occurring in 14 of Turkey's 81 provinces (Fig. 1). These are Adana, Antalya, Bilecik, Burdur,

Table 2. Reported global occurrence of *Rhaesus serricollis*, with bibliographic citations.

Reported Locale	Citations
Albania	Danilevsky 2007, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Rapuzzi and Sama 2012, Kovács and Merkl 2013
Armenia	Özdikmen 2014
Azerbaijan	Özdikmen 2014
Balkan Peninsula	Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010
Bulgaria	Danilevsky 2007, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010
Bulgaria (Asenovgrad)	Georgiev et al. 2006
Bulgaria (Lyubimets)	Georgiev and Doychev 2010
Caucasus Region	Demelt 1963, Villiers 1967, Agras 2006, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Rapuzzi and Sama 2012, Cihan 2013, Özdikmen 2014
Cyprus	Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Özdikmen 2014
Dalmatia	Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010
East Mediterranean Region	Buse et al. 2013
Europe	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Marazzi 2009, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009
Europe (Balkans)	Cihan 2013
Europe (Southeast)	Özdikmen 2014
Georgia	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Rapuzzi and Sama 2012, Özdikmen 2014
Germany	Demelt 1963, Villiers 1967, Agras 2006

Table 2. Continued.

Reported Locale	Citations
Greece	Danilevsky 2007, Demelt 1963, Villiers 1967, Agrad 2006, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010
Iran	Demelt 1963, Villiers 1967, Agrad 2006, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Rapuzzi and Sama 2012, Cihan 2013, Özdikmen 2014
Iran (East Azerbaijan province)	Sakenin et al. 2011
Iran (Northern, Western provinces)	Sama et al. 2008
Israel	Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Özdikmen 2014
Lebanon	Özdikmen 2014
Macedonia	Danilevsky 2007, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Kovács and Merkl 2013
Near East Region	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Cihan 2013
North Africa (Egypt)	Özdikmen 2014
Serbia	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009
Syria	Demelt 1963, Villiers 1967, Agrad 2006, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Cihan 2013, Özdikmen 2014
Transcaucasus Region	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Cihan 2013, Özdikmen 2014
Turkey	Danilevsky 2007, Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009, Heyrovský 1948, Sama 1993, Althoff and Danilevsky 1997, Sama et al. 2010, Cihan 2013, Özdikmen 2014

Table 2. Continued.

Reported Locale	Citations
Turkey (European)	Güven 2007, Özdikmen 2007, Özdikmen and Turgut 2009
Yugoslavia	Danilevsky 2007

Denizli, Düzce, Hatay, İçel, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Konya, Muğla, and Osmaniye provinces. It also has been recorded from the Toros Mountains. Location reports along with specific citation(s) of those reports are listed in Table 1.

Reported occurrence outside Turkey. *Rhaesus serricollis* is recorded from the Balkan peninsula from Dalmatia to southern Greece, Europe (Albania, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, European Turkey), Southeast Europe, Turkey, Caucasus, Transcaucasia (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia), Iran, Syria, Cyprus, Israel, the Near East, Lebanon, and North Africa. It also has been introduced into Egypt (Özdikmen 2014). Citations of confirmed occurrence of *R. serricollis* are listed in Table 2, and the recorded distribution is shown in Fig. 1.

Host plants. *Rhaesus serricollis* is apparently polyphagous and develops in dead parts of living deciduous trees such as *Platanus orientalis* L. (Platanaceae), *Ficus* (Moraceae), *Quercus coccifera* subsp. *calliprinos* (Webb) Holmboe, *Q. ithaburensis* (Decne) Boissier, and *Populus alba* L. (Buse et al. 2013; Bytinski-Salz 1956; Bytinski-Salz and Sternlicht 1967; Georgiev and Doychev 2010; Halperin and Holzschuh 1993; Sama et al. 2008, 2010). Cihan (2013) and Özdikmen (2013) reported that the species lives on deciduous forest trees, including those of the genera *Fagus*, *Celtis*, *Platanus*, *Quercus*, *Castanea*, *Tilia*, *Juglans*, *Salix*, *Morus*, *Liquidambar*, and especially the conifers (*Pinus*). Specimens from Turkey were found on or in the deciduous species *Juglans regia* L., *Liquidambar orientalis* L., *Platanus orientalis*, *Morus alba* L., and the conifers *Pinus brutia* Steven and *P. nigra* Arnold either as adults or larvae (Acatay 1971, Adlbauer 1988, Bahadıroğlu et al. 2009, Bense 1995, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Demelt 1963, Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Gül-Zümreoğlu 1975, Hoskovec and Rejzek 2012, Öymen 1987, Svacha and Danilevsky 1987). *Rhaesus serricollis* also is the only long-horned beetle species reported from Oriental sweet gum, *L. orientalis*, in Turkey (Acatay 1971, Çanakçıoğlu 1983, Cebeci and Özdikmen 2010, Erdem and Çanakçıoğlu 1977, Öymen 1987).

Life cycle and biology. *Rhaesus serricollis* larvae live in rotting and wet wood (Ağras 2006, Gül-Zümreoğlu 1975). Adults and larvae can be collected only from the host plants growing in lowland habitats between 5 and 1,000 m above sea level. Duration of the life cycle is at least 3 yr. The overwintering stage is most likely the larval stage. Larvae live in rotten wood of large trunks (both standing or fallen) of the host plants. Pupation occurs in the wood in the spring and summer. Adults are crepuscular, nocturnal, and are attracted to light. They actively fly in early spring and summer (between May and August) (Özdikmen 2013).

Status and conservation of threatened species. Nieto and Alexander (2010) report that 13% of the species of saproxylic beetles are considered Near

Threatened in Europe. *Rhaesus serricollis* is included in those 56 species. According to Özdikmen (2014), *R. serricollis* is probably widely distributed in Turkey and suggested that the species be listed in the category of Least Concern in the Turkish Red List. Based on its distribution, collection dates, and records from Turkey, we concur with that placement.

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