Atractotomus parvulus Reuter, 1878 (Hemiptera, Miridae) a plant bug new to Norway

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One female of *Atractotomus parvulus* Reuter, 1878 was collected from *Pinus mugo* Turra at **AAY** Lillesand EIS 6, 16. August 2007.

Key words: *Atractotomus parvulus*, Hemiptera, Miridae, Norway.

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Introduction

Atractotomus parvulus Reuter, 1878 is distributed in Central and Western Europe from Spain, The Netherlands and Belgium in the west to Croatia, Czech Republic and Hungary in the east. In North Europe it is known from Sweden, where it is recorded from the provinces of Öland, Gotland and Uppland.

It seems to occur exclusively on *Pinus*, and all records from different countries are mostly from Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.). It has also been reported from former Yugoslavia on *Pinus halepensis* (Mill.) (Stonedahl 1990) and from The Netherlands on *Pinus mugo* Turra (Aukema 1992). Incidental records from other coniferous trees (*Picea* sp. and *Abies* sp.) have been reported (Aukema 1992).

It is often considered rare or not common (Wachmann et al. 2004) but perhaps this may depend on undercollecting. In Britain it is common and widespread, extending north into Scotland and is in lowland Britain usually readily found on almost any Scots pine at the appropriate season (Nau 1995). In Sweden it is common on Gotland, where imagos can be found abundantly on Scots pine from late July to first week in September. There is one generation annually and the species overwinters as eggs (Wagner & Weber 1964).

According to Stonedahl (1990) the species *Atractotomus mali* does not belong to genus *Atractotomus*, but he did not indicate its position. We therefore follow Kerzhner & Josifov (1999) in retaining it in *Atractotomus*.

Material & methods

The plant bug *A. parvulus* (Hemiptera, Miridae) was collected in **AAY** Tingsaker, Lillesand (EIS 6, UTM$_{WGS84}$32VMK64574643), 16. August 2007. A single female was captured using a beating tray on some bushes of Mugo pine (*Pinus mugo* Turra) (figure 1). The specimen is kept in the entomological collection at Bioforsk Plantehelse, Ås.

With this addition to the Norwegian list we have

Table 1. Key to Norwegian species of *Atractotomus*.

1.	2nd antennal segment longer than width of head. Larger, body length 2,7-3,8 mm.....2
-	2nd antennal segment shorther than width of head. Small, body length 2,2-2,7 mm.....*parvulus*
2.	Ratio: width of vertex to width of eye about 2 in male, a little more in female. 2nd antennal segment thick and spindle shaped in both sexes. Body length 3,0-3,8 mm. On deciduous trees, especially *Crataegus* and *Malus*.....*mali* (Meyer-Dür, 1843)
-	Ratio: width of vertex to width of eye 1,4 in male, 1,6 in female. 2nd antennal segment cylindrical in male, spindle shaped in female. Body length 2,7-3,4 mm. On *Picea abies,* occasionally on other coniferous trees.....*magnicornis* (Fallén, 1807)

Figure 1. A female specimen of *Atractotomus parvulus* was caught with a beating tray in the bushes of *Pinus mago* on the right side of this foothpath in Tingsaker, Lillesand on the 16th of August 2007.

three species of the plant bug genus *Atractotomus* in Norway. They can be determined by the key in Table 1.

Remarks

Considering the known distribution of *A. parvulus* it should be of interest to collect in south Norway on *Pinus* trying to decide the cause for its occurrence in Norway, either if it is spontaneous or it has been introduced with imported *Pinus* plants. The specimen we discovered was found on *Pinus mugo*. These plants were planted during 1995 and 1996 and were organized by the gas station nearby (Pers. Comm. Odd Moldestad). We could not find out whether this was imported plants or not. *P. mugo* was introduced to Norway during the nineteenth century and was in the beginning used as a plant for shelter. Later it became a popular plant to have in the garden, as the species never get very tall.

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