

# The genus *Anommatus* Westmael, 1835 (Coleoptera, Bothrideridae) in Norway

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Sieving samples from two locations alongside the walls of “Akershus festning”, the old castle in Oslo, Norway, contained remnants of three specimens of *Anommatus diecki* Reiter, 1875 and one specimen of *Anommatus duodecimstriatus* (Müller, 1821). These finds are the first records of the genus *Anommatus* in Norway.

Key words: *Anommatus diecki*, *Anommatus duodecimstriatus*, Bothrideridae, Coleoptera, Norway.

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## Introduction

The genus *Anommatus* Westmael, 1835 is represented with 68 species worldwide and belongs to the family Bothrideridae. The two species *Anommatus duodecimstriatus* (Müller, 1821) and *Anommatus diecki* Reiter, 1875 are so far the only recorded species in northern Europe. Both species have been recorded in both Sweden and in Denmark (Lundberg and Ehnström 1968, Mahler 1987, Hansen et al. 1997), but none of them are hitherto known to occur in Finland or Norway. Bothrideridae is a species poor family, containing five species in Sweden, and with the wood living *Bothrideres contractus* (Geoffroy, 1785) as the sole species recorded from Norway.

## Material and methods

During an investigation of the distribution of the snail *Truncatellina cylindrica* (Férussac, 1807) on suitable localities in Oslo (Olsen 2008), several sieving samples from the old castle “Akershus festning” were collected and sorted. The remains of *Anommatus* specimens were produced from two subsamples; two *A. diecki* and one *A. duodecimstriatus* from the southernmost part of

the wall (UTM 32VNM97084226) and one *A. diecki* from the outside of the northern tunnel (UTM 32VNM97054240). The calcareous rocky wall of the castle is almost vertical (about 8–10m high) for most of its length (about 300m), but with a narrow plateau along the top and minor shelves and crevices further down, where the sieved and sampled soil and litter accumulate. Several plant species grow on the wall, amongst them native *Sedum* and *Artemisia* species. The most dominating species, however, has for many years been Common ivy (*Hedera helix*), Climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea petiolaris*) and Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), but in 2008 the majority of these plants, biomass was, as a recommendation to enhance conditions for *Truncatellina cylindrica*, removed. These actions would probably not affect the populations of the two *Anommatus* species in a profound negative way. On the contrary, removing plant material and relocating some of the soil might just give the two *Anommatus* species a helping hand inhabiting new areas.

## Distribution

*A. duodecimstriatus* (Figure 2) has a wide