

The first record of the weevil *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Norway

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The weevil *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795) is recorded from Norway for the first time. Two specimens were found in Guttormsvauen, Hvaler County, Østfold, in June 2012, situated under pieces of wood in an inlet near the seashore. The biology and distribution in other Nordic countries are briefly discussed in this paper.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, *Pselactus spadix*, Norway.

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Introduction

The weevil *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795) (Figure 1) is recorded from Norway for the first time. The genus is formerly called *Codiosoma* (Bedel, 1885) and *Phloeophagia* (Aurivillius, 1924), and includes eight species. *Pselactus spadix* is previously recorded from the areas around Malmö in southern Sweden, and several records in the area close to the Norwegian border along the western coast. There are also records from the southeastern parts of Sweden and Denmark (Figure 2). *P. spadix* is resistant to saltwater, and can survive in driftwood for a long period (Rheinheimer & Hassler 2013). Driftwood is therefore the most likely way of dispersal for the species, which explains its occurrence in coastal areas. According to Oevering & Pitman (2005), mating specimens of *P. spadix* have been observed inside the galleries along with larvae. It is therefore plausible that it can complete its life cycle without leaving the wood. The emergence holes are approximately 1.5 mm in diameter, and

the complete life cycle from 2nd instar larvae to adult took about 17–22 month in *Pinus sylvestris* at 22°C (Oevering & Pitman 2005).

Material and methods

One female of *P. spadix* was found in Norway, ØSTFOLD [Ø] Hvaler: Guttormsvauen, 32 V, E 605990 N 6551084, 27 June 2012, leg. Per Kristian Solevåg, and one male in the same locality the day after, 28 June 2012, leg. Arne E. Laugsand. Both specimens were situated under planks embedded in rotten seaweeds in an inlet. The inlet was surrounded by open and dry pine forest, and different kinds of deciduous trees (Figure 3). One of the specimens was gnawing on the wood. Dead driftwood from the locality was collected 28 June 2012 and stored in a plastic box, and resulted in one male late July 2012, leg. Arne E. Laugsand. The species was determined by using Rheinheimer & Hassler (2013), and stored in the authors' private collections.



FIGURE 1. *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795), with the male genitalia to the right. Photo: Kim Abel, Naturarkivet.

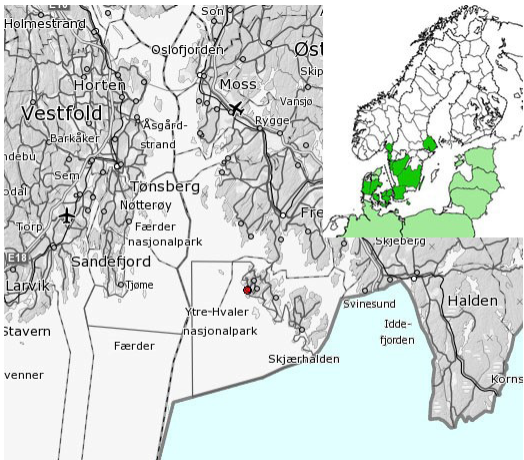


FIGURE 2. Distribution of *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795). The records (red dot) from Norway, and in the upper right corner inset, the distribution in Fennoscandia. Darkest green colour represent presence in a county. Maps generated from Artskart and BeetleBase.

Discussion

Based on the distribution given by Ehnström (2002), these new records represent the northernmost border of the species, distributed along the European coastline from the



FIGURE 3. The inlet where *Pselactus spadix* (Herbst, 1795) was found in Guttormsvauen, Østfold. Photo: Arne Laugsand.

Mediterranean to the Baltics. The larvae are most often found in coniferous wood washed ashore and embedded in the vegetation and rotten seaweeds where they may stay for several generations (Ehnström 2002, Oevering & Pitman 2005). Ehnström & Axelsson (2002) also mention deciduous trees like *Betula* spp. and *Salix* spp. as suitable substrates for larval development, and that the circular emergence holes of the adults are often impossible to spot on the substrate. In a study by Oevering & Pitman (2005), they concluded

that *P. spadix* could complete its lifecycle inside the wood. This suggest that the species may be overlooked both in Norway and Sweden, and that suitable wood should be investigated or taken indoors for rearing. Jansson (1925) mention that the species is introduced to Sweden by mahogany trees some years earlier, and Hansen (1965) reports that it may cause damage by feeding on pier poles in Copenhagen (Denmark). Such damage is not reported from Sweden.

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