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LEIOPUS FEMORATUS IN CENTRAL APENNINE
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

Leiopus femoratus Fairmaire, 1859 is a widely distributed species, known from northern Iran, Caucasus, Transcaucasia (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan), northern, western and European Turkey, Crimea, Bulgaria, Italy, north-western Germany, Luxemburg and France (Plavilstshikov, 1948; Biscaccianti, 2005; Sama, 2005a; Gerend & Meyer, in press; Danilevsky, in litteris; Gerend, in litteris) (fig. 1). In the eastern part of its fragmented areal, *L. femoratus* is rather common, while in Europe it is rare and localized. In this paper, authors report two new localities for central Italy and a new host plant for the species.

ABBREVIATIONS. AB = legit A.B. Biscaccianti; AV = Avellino province; BN = Benevento province; CH = Chieti province; CL = Caltanissetta province; CZ = Catanzaro province; el = ex larvis (follows the host plant and the date of sampling); GO = Gorizia province; LP = legit L. PetruzzIELLO; ME = Messina province; PA = Palermo province; RC = Reggio Calabria province; SA = Salerno province.

Leiopus femoratus Fairmaire, 1859

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MATERIAL EXAMINED. **Abruzzo**: 1♂, Casoli (CH), Lago di Serranella Natural Reserve, stream Gogna, 100 m, 7.VI.2006 (el *Quercus robur* L., 3.XII.2005), AB. **Campania**: 1♀, Pratola Serra (AV), S. Michele di Pratola, 400-500 m, 26.VI.1992, LP; 1♀, ibidem, 22.IX.1996, LP; 1♀, ibidem, 30.VI.1997, LP; 1♂, ibidem, 4.VII.1998, LP; 1♀, ibidem, 28.VI.1999, LP (specimens preserved in the authors' collections).

Leiopus femoratus was recorded for the first time in Italy by Heyrovský (1928), upon material collected in Calabria by Pirazzoli; this record, reported by Luigioni (1929) and Müller (1953), was discarded or overlooked by all subsequent authors. Sama (1985) took into account the quotation of Luigioni (1929), even if doubtfully, having himself examined a single fe-

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male coming from “M. Poro di Nicotera” (southern Calabria), possibly belonging to *L. femoratus*. However he subsequently quoted only the record for M. Poro di Nicotera, firstly (Sama, 1988) as *L. nebulosus* (Linné, 1758), and then (Sama, 2002) as *L. femoratus*.

Recently the occurrence of *L. femoratus* in Italy has been definitely confirmed: additional records are available for Venezia Giulia (Rapuzzi, 2002; Sama, 2005b) and Calabria (Sama, 2002, 2005b; Biscaccianti, 2005), while old records are known also for Campania (Biscaccianti, 2005) and Sicilia (Sama, 2002, 2005b; Biscaccianti, 2005). These old records refer to specimens collected in the 19th and early 20th centuries by some Italian entomologists (A. Costa, C. Coniglio-Fanales, F. Silvestri and F. Vitale), previously overlooked or misidentified, and by two Danish entomologists quoted by Sama (2002: 106).

L. femoratus develops in dead twigs and thin branches (up to 4-5 cm) of broadleaf trees, chiefly *Castanea* and *Juglans* (Sama, 2002), but also *Carpinus*, *Fagus*, *Ficus*, *Salix* and *Tilia* (Mamaev & Danilevsky, 1975; Cherepanov, 1991; Bense, 1995; Biscaccianti, unpublished data). The larva bores between the bark and the sapwood of the host plant during a period of at least one year, then pupates in a cell bored under bark and deeply excavated in the sapwood (Cherepanov, 1991; Biscaccianti, pers. observ.). According to Bense (1995) and Sama (2002), the flight period of adults lasts from April to July, but may be prolonged until September, following one of the records quoted here (see above).

A single male of *L. femoratus* was reared from a dead branch of *Quercus robur* collected during a survey carried out in the Site of Comunitary Importance “IT7140215 - Lago di Serranella e Colline di Guarenna” (Sangro valley, Abruzzo), together with *Tilloidea unifasciata* (Fabricius, 1787) (Coleoptera Cleridae); two specimens of the latter species were observed by one of us (ABB) inside the feeding galleries of *L. femoratus*. The predation by *T. unifasciata* of many species of wood borer beetles (Cerambycidae and other Coleoptera), is well known from Gobbi (1984, sub *Tillus unifasciatus*).

In the above mentioned locality of Abruzzo, the habitat of *L. femoratus* is represented by fragments of the original riparial forest along the stream Gogna (fig. 2). This interesting relict phytocoenosis belongs to the *Populetum albae* subass. *quercetosum roboris* Manzi, 1988, a syntaxon described from lower Sangro valley and characterized by the presence of *Q. robur* and *Ulmus minor* Mill. (Manzi, 1988; Manzi & Pellegrini, 1994; see also Manzi, 1993; Pirone et al., 1993). The specimens collected in Campania flew around flowers and branches of a single chestnut-tree (*Castanea sativa* Mill.), near the external edge of a thermophilous mixed wood, in a rural environment.

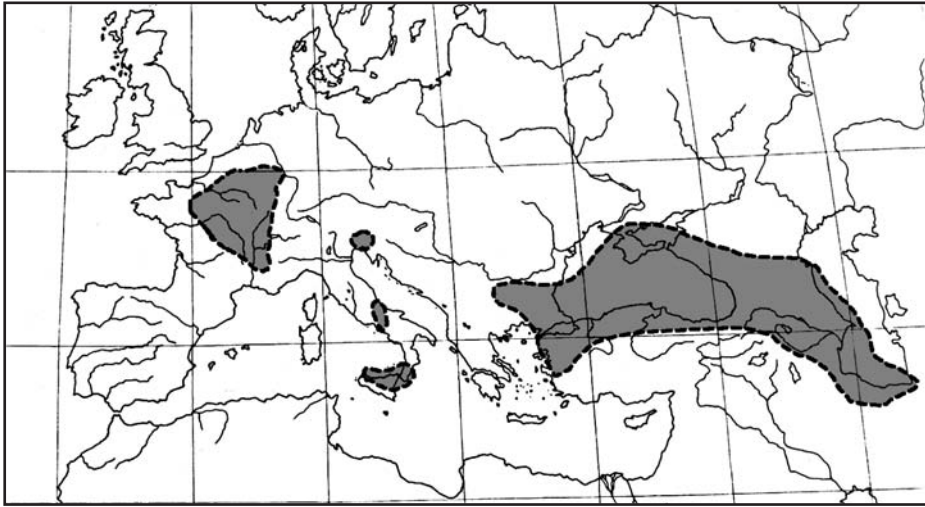


Fig. 1 – Areal of *Leiolopus femoratus*.



Fig. 2 – Collecting place of *Leiolopus femoratus* in Abruzzo, stream Gogna near Casoli (Photograph: M. Pellegrini).

These data, together with the old records from Campania (Biscaccianti, 2005), fill at least in part the gap existing between the Karst (Rapuzzi, 2002) and Aspromonte (southern Apennine) (Sama, 2002; Biscaccianti, 2005). This may imply a wider diffusion of the species in the Apennine, and perhaps also in the Balkans.

Moreover, the new host plant (*Q. robur*) quoted here is significant, since no biological data were known for Italy up to now.

About the occurrence of *L. femoratus* in Sicilia, no data are available after 1936. In fact, only a few specimens (now preserved in the collections Ragusa, Vitale, Alliata and Luigioni) were collected in Sicilia between 1908 and 1936, but they are misidentified and quoted as *L. nebulosus*, at least up to 2004 (Ragusa, 1924; Vitale, 1936; Sama & Schurmann, 1980; Sama, 1985, 1988; Sparacio, 1992; Baviera & Sparacio, 2004). According to Biscaccianti (2005), these specimens (and the relative quotations) belong to *L. femoratus*, and the occurrence of *L. nebulosus* in Sicily was consequently regarded as doubtful (the only specimen of the latter, coming from Sicilia, was the lectotype of *L. nebulosus* var. *siculus* Pic, 1924). Later on, the true *L. nebulosus* was collected on Mts Nebrodi (northern Sicilia) (Rapuzzi, in litteris), and further records were also added by Rapuzzi & Sama (2006). Despite the rectifications provided by Biscaccianti (2005), the authors (Rapuzzi & Sama, 2006) refer the old and the recent records to the same species, *L. nebulosus*.

In order to update the distribution of *L. femoratus* in Italy, authors summarize all the available data, listed according to the Italian administrative regions, from North to South:

Friuli-Venezia Giulia: Monfalcone [GO] (Rapuzzi, 2002; Sama, 2002, 2005b). **Abruzzo:** Casoli (CH), Lago di Serranella Natural Reserve, stream Gogna (see above). **Campania:** Dugenta [BN] (Biscaccianti, 2005); Pratola Serra (AV), S. Michele di Pratola (see above); M[onti] di Cava [de' Tirreni] [= Mts Lattari (SA)] (Biscaccianti, 2005). **Calabria:** Calabrien (Heyrovský, 1928); M. Poro di Nicotera [CZ] (Sama, 1988, sub *L. nebulosus*; cfr. Sama, 2005b); Mongiana; Le Serre, Ferdinanda, Bosco Stilo; Piani Aspromonte; str. S. Eufemia - Piani Aspromonte; Aspromonte, M. Montalto (all in RC) (Biscaccianti, 2005); Piani Aspromonte [RC] (Sama, 2005b). **Sicilia:** Messina (Baviera & Sparacio, 2004, sub *L. nebulosus*); Calamarò [= Calamarà (ME)] (Sama & Schurmann, 1980; Sama, 1988, all sub *L. nebulosus*); Calamarà [ME] (Sparacio, 1992, sub *L. nebulosus*; Biscaccianti, 2005); Castanea [delle Fùrie] [ME] (Vitale, 1936, sub *L. nebulosus* a. *siculus*; Sparacio, 1992; Baviera & Sparacio, 2004, all sub *L. nebulosus*; Biscaccianti, 2005; Sama, 2005b, sub *L. nebulosus*); Santo Mauro [= S. Mauro Castelverde (PA)] (Ragusa, 1924, sub *Liopus nebulosus*); S. Mauro [Castelverde (PA)] (Sama & Schurmann, 1980; Sama, 1988, all sub *Leiopus nebulosus*); San Mauro Castelverde [PA] (Biscaccianti, 2005); San Cataldo [CL] (Sama, 2002, 2005b).

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SUMMARY

New records of *Leiopus femoratus* from central Apennine (Abruzzo and Campania regions) are provided, together with a new host plant (*Quercus robur*). In Italy *L. femoratus* was previously known from Venezia Giulia, Campania (old records), southern Calabria and Sicilia (old records). According to this paper, the species is new to Abruzzo and confirmed to Campania. Detailed and updated distribution in Italy is also given.

RIASSUNTO

Leiopus femoratus nell'Appennino centrale (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae).

In questa breve nota si segnala la presenza di *Leiopus femoratus* nell'Appennino centrale (Abruzzo e Campania) e una nuova pianta ospite (*Quercus robur*) per la specie. Se ne riporta inoltre la distribuzione italiana aggiornata e commentata.

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