

**THEOPHILEA SUBCYLINDRICOLLIS HLADIL, 1988
(COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE) A NEW GENUS AND A
NEW SPECIES FOR ROMANIA'S FAUNA**

BY

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The genus *Theophilea* with the species *Theophilea subcylindricollis* is recorded for the first time in Romania's fauna. Until now we have found this species in some locations from Iași County (in NE part of Romania).

Introduction and historical review

A new genus and a new species of longhorn beetle have been recorded in the Romanian fauna.

The genus *Theophilea* was described by PIC (1895) after the typical species *cylindricollis* from Armenia. Much later, Plavilstshicov (1931 in Heyrovsky, 1967) recorded this species in Krasnodar region (South of European Russia) and Lugansk (the eastern part of Ukraine). In 1967, Heyrovsky recorded *Theophilea cylindricollis* for the first time in central Europe (Hungary). Hladil (1988) made a comparative study and considered that the specimens collected in Hungary, Slovakia and Northwest of Caucasus are different from those in Armenia (*terra typica* for *Theophilea cylindricollis*) and described a new species *Theophilea subcylindricollis*, Hladil 1988. According to Jenis (2001), *Theophilea subcylindricollis* could be a clinal variability of the Armenian species.

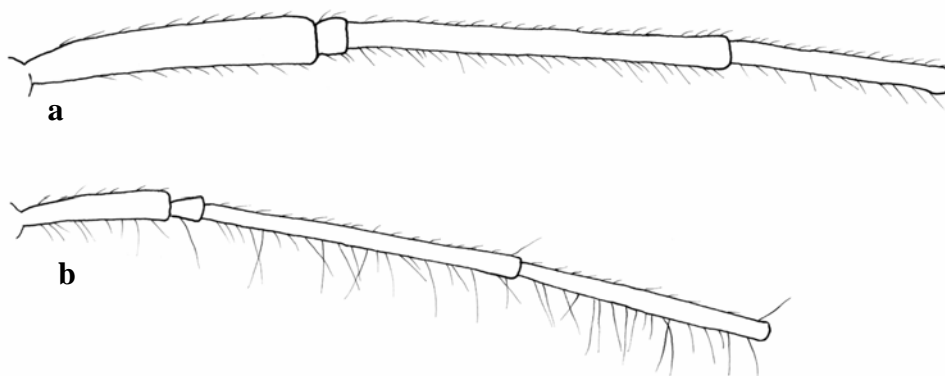
Recently, PESARINI & SABBADINI (2004) analyzed the systematic position of the genus *Theophilea* which they considered close to *Agapanthiola* Ganglb., 1900 (*Agapanthiini* Muls., 1839) and not to *Calamobius* Guérin, 1849 (*Hippopsini* Thoms., 1860).

Materials and methods

The specimens were collected from grasslands using an entomological sweep-net [frequently in association with *Calamobius filum* (Rossi, 1790)]. A total of 13 specimens were analysed: 2 ex. 1. 06. 2004, Botanical Garden of Iași; 1 ex. 16. 05. 2000,

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2 ex. 14. 05. 2005 "Valea lui David" Nature Reserve; 1 ex. 20. 04. 2004, Mârzești; 2 ex. 15. 05. 2003, glade in Bârnova forest; 1 ex. 23. 06. 2001, 1 ex. 25. 05. 2005 Vlădeni wetland; 3 ex. . 8. 05. 2004, Probota, Bălățau Nature Reserve.



**Figure 1. The first antennal segments in: a) *Calamobius filum*;
b) *Theophilea subcylindricollis***

Description

Length 7-10 mm. Body slender, subparallel, with very dense, regular punctuation and with double pubescence: recumbent, very short hairs and long erect setae. The punctuation of the head is coarser than that of the pronotum. The antennae are black, longer than the body and covered with short pale pubescences and with long dark hairs on the ventral side. The scape is moderately swollen from a lateral view. The pronotum is black, subcylindrical, and conspicuously longer than wide with maximum width in the basal third. The elytra can be metallic blue, blue green or green, with sparse grey or yellowish pubescence and with the apices roundly acuminate. The humerus of the elytra is flat and not very prominent. Each elytron bears long, inconspicuous costa, with a row of distinct pale setae. The legs are long and black, each tarsus with the excavated portion of the third segment as long as the basal portion.

Theophilea subcylindricollis is apparently very similar to *Calamobius filum*, but it can be distinguished from the latter by the presence of long dark hairs on the ventral side of the antenna (Figure 1), the metallic luster of the elytra and the absence of a furrow on the median tibia.

Biology and ecology

According to Jenis (2000) the larva develops in the stalk of *Elytrigia repens* which is also the food plant for *Theophilea cylindricollis* (Rejzek et al. 2001). Adults emerge in VI-VII (Bense, 1995) but we collected them in IV-V. They can be found on blades of grass in steppe habitats.

Distribution

It was recorded in Slovakia, Hungary, Ukraine, in the south of European Russia, Caucasus (Althoff & Danilevsky, 1997), Kazakhstan (Lobanov et al., 1982), Turkey (Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2004). We collected some specimens of *T. subcylindricollis* in some localities of Iași County, in the northern-eastern part of Romania (Figure. 2).

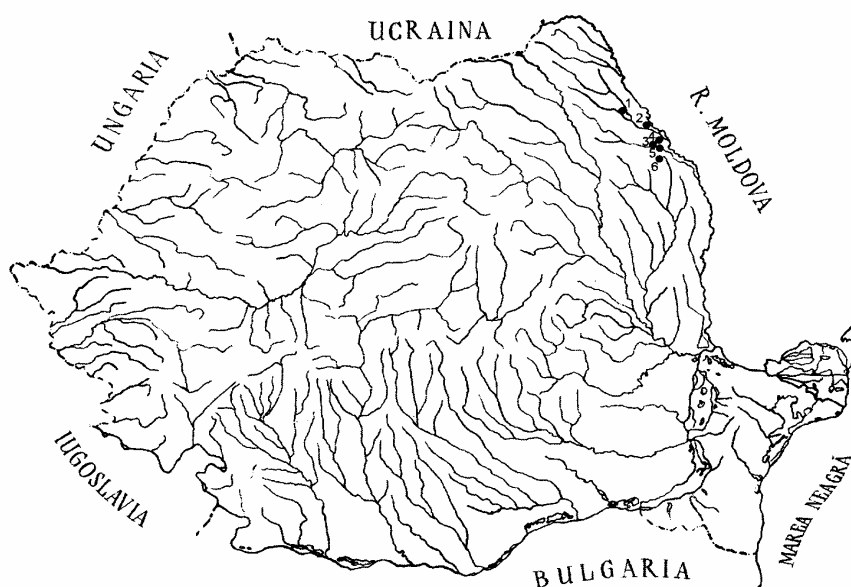


Figure 2. The distribution of *Theophilea subcylindricollis* in the Romania's fauna: 1 – Vlădeni; 2 – Probotă; 3 – Valea lui David; 4 – Mârzești; 5 – Botanical Garden, Iași; 6 – Bârnova forest

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