

***Altica carinthiaca* (WEISE, 1888) (Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae) - species
new to the Polish fauna**

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ABSTRACT. *Altica carinthiaca* (Weise, 1888) has been collected in Lublin, Wyżyna Lubelska upland. It is first record of this species from Poland. Diagnostic characters are discussed in relation to previously published keys to the Polish Chrysomelidae.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Alticinae, *Altica carinthiaca*, Poland, new records.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Altica* MÜLLER, 1764 comprises 34 species in Europe, partly difficult to identify with doubtful status of some taxa. From Poland, 12 species were hitherto recorded. Species of this genus are very uniform in external morphology and popular keys to species usually use as diagnostic characters only the structure of male genitalia (MOHR 1966, DOGUET 1994, WARCHAŁOWSKI 2003).

Altica carinthiaca (WEISE, 1888) is rare but widely distributed species, recorded from Norway, Baltic countries, Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Balkan countries, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and S Russia east to Baikal Lake. In southern part of the distribution range it prefers mountain and submountain localities. In Central and North Europe the species was collected on humid meadows. As host plants *Polygonum aviculare*, *Sanguisorba minor*,

Lathyrus pratensis and *Veronica* sp. were recorded. Such wide range of hosts indicates polyphagy but all the records need confirmation.

Geographic distribution and biological preferences suggest occurrence of *Altica carinthiaca* in Poland and it was surprising that the species has not been recorded to this time. Recently, junior author collected few specimens of *A. carinthiaca* in Lublin area (eastern Poland) and after study of male genitalia of Polish population we concluded that lack of records was caused by an error in diagnostic keys usually used to identification of Polish members of the genus *Altica* (MOHR 1966, WARCHAŁOWSKI 1978).

Localities in Poland

Wyżyna Lubelska: Lublin, meadow close to Botanical Garden [Wądolna street – meadow with *Geranium pratense* near Czechówka river – 51°15'39"N; 22°29'51"], 20 V 2003, 1 ♂, 21 VII 2003, 1 ♂, leg. R. ŚCIBIOR.

Wyżyna Lubelska: Lublin, „Górki Czechowskie” [former military range, ruderal habitats with *Solidago canadensis*, *Cichorium intybus*, *Rubus caesius*, and *Arctium tomentosum* – 51°15'52"N; 22°31'50"], 2 ♂, 1 VIII 2007, leg. R. ŚCIBIOR.

DISCUSSION

WARCHAŁOWSKI (1978) characterises this species by its unique male genitalia, with very short median lobe, widest in the middle and strongly narrowed anterad and posterad. He reprinted figure of the genitalia from MOHR's work (1966) because he had no specimens of this species in collection (WARCHAŁOWSKI, personal information). After study of material from Poland and France we conclude that the figure from MOHR's key was prepared from a teratological specimen. Although *A. carinthiaca* has median lobe widest in the middle, in many specimens, including Polish population, the thickening of penis in the middle is only slightly marked (Figs 2, 3) and sides of the lobe never form angular convexity. We studied only one specimen from France with median lobe more distinctly shorter than in other specimens and distinctly thickened in the middle but not as distinctly as on figure in MOHR's key (1966). Penis of *A. carinthiaca* in comparison with other related species is well characterized by very poor sculpture of ventral and lateral sides, with no distinct elevations or grooves and oblique ridges on sides limited only to a short distance in apical 1/3-2/5 length of penis.

Externally, *Altica carinthiaca* differs from most of Polish species by its small size, with length 3.6-4.0 mm while most other species usually have length distinctly above 4.0 mm. Only *Altica helianthemis* (ALLARD, 1859) has similar size and similar habitat preferences but both species differ distinctly in male genitalia (see WARCHAŁOWSKI, 1978).



Figs 1-4. *Altica carinthiaca* (WEISE): 1 – male dorsal, 2 – penis dorsal, 2 – penis ventral, 3 – penis lateral.

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