*Elytra*, *Tokyo*, New Series, **6** (2): 199–200
December 25, 2016

# The First Record of *Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Japan

**Hiraku Yoshitake[1)], Roberto Caldara[2)] and Masaaki Genka[3)]**

[1)] Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences, NARO, 3–1–3 Kannondai Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305–8604 Japan
[2)] Center of Alpine Entomology, University of Milan, via Celoria 2, 20133 Milan, Italy
[3)] Narita Sub-station, Yokohama Plant Protection Station, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan, 2159 Tennamino, Komaino, Narita, Chiba, 282–0021 Japan

*Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal, 1813) is a small curculionid weevil belonging to the tribe Mecinini, subfamily Curculioninae (Caldara, 2013). This species, which is monophagous on *Plantago lanceolata* (Hoffmann, 1958; Caldara & Fogato, 2013; Nieminen & Vikberg, 2015), is known to occur in the Palaearctic Region from the Iberian Peninsula to Kazakhstan and to be imported in other continents (Caldara, 2013; Caldara & Fogato, 2013). However, this species has never been recorded from Japan to date. Recently, we had an opportunity to examine a short series of specimens of *M. pascuorum* collected from North Honshu, Japan, as recorded below.


Figs. 1–2. Habitus of *Mecinus pascuorum* (Gyllenhal), ♂ from Aomori Pref., Japan. —— 1, Dorsal habitus; 2, lateral habitus.

### *Mecinus pascuorum* (GYLLENHAL, 1813)

(Figs. 1–2)

*Rhynchaenus pascuorum* GYLLENHAL, 1813, 124 (type locality: Sweden).
*Gymnetron pascuorum*: GYLLENHAL, 1838, 744.
*Mecinus pascuorum*: CALDARA, 2001, 183.
See CALDARA and FOGATO (2013) for other synonyms.

*Specimens examined*. JAPAN: Honshu. 3 exs., Aomori Pref., Hachinohe Port Island, 10.VI.2015, T. ONO leg., on *Plantago lanceolata*.

*Distribution*. Europe, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia, Algeria; introduced to North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa; Japan – **new record**.

*Host plant*. *Plantago lanceolata* (Plantaginaceae).

*Biological note*. Larvae of this species feed on fruits and pupate in the floral spikes of *P. lanceolata* (HOFFMANN, 1958).

*Remarks*. This is the first species of *Mecinus* known for Japan, where the tribe Mecinini is poorly represented (CALDARA, 2013), and therefore easily distinguishable from other species based on the morphological characters quoted by CALDARA (2001) and CALDARA and FOGATO (2013). *Plantago lanceolata* is one of the invasive plants of Japan, which was introduced accidentally from Europe in 19th century and then spread countrywide (National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, 2004). This time, *M. pascuorum* was found on *P. lanceolata* growing in an artificial harbor, suggesting strongly that this is not native to Japan but an invasive species from a foreign country, though the invasion route of this species to Japan is unclear.

## References

CALDARA, R., 2001. Phylogenetic analysis and higher classification of the tribe Mecinini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Curculioninae). *Koleopterologische Rundschau*, **71**: 171–203.

CALDARA, R., 2013. Curculionidae: Curculioninae. Pp. 51–56, 117–172. *In* LÖBL, I., & A. SMETANA (eds.), *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera*, **8**. 700 pp. Brill, Leiden.

CALDARA, R., & V. FOGATO, 2013. Systematics of the weevil genus *Mecinus* GERMAR, 1821 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). I. Taxonomic treatment of the species. *Zootaxa*, **3654**: 1–105.

GYLLENHAL, L., 1813. *Insecta Svecica descripta a Leonardo GYLLENHAL. Classis I. Coleoptera sive Eleuterata*. Tomi I. Pars III. [4] + 730 + [2] pp. F. J. Leverentz, Scaris.

GYLLENHAL, L., 1838. *In* SCHOENHERR, C. J., *Genera et species Curculionidum, cum synonymia hujus familiae. Species novae aut hactenus minus cognitae, descriptionibus a Dom. Leonardo GYLLENHAL, C. H. BOHEMAN, et entomologis aliis illustratae*, **4**(2): 601–1121 [1122–1124 (Corrigenda)]. Roret, Paris.

HOFFMANN, A., 1958. Coléoptères Curculionides. Troisième partie. *Faune de France*, **62**: 1209–1839.

National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, 2004. Invasive Species of Japan. Available from: https://www.nies.go.jp/biodiversity/invasive/DB/detail/ 80380e.html (30 June 2016).

NIEMINEN, M., & V. VIKBERG, 2015. The insect community of *Plantago lanceolata* spikes in the Åland Islands, SWFinland. *Entomologia Fennica*, **26**: 30–52.

Manuscript received 1 September 2016;
revised and accepted 8 September 2016.