

Benibotarus taygetanus (Pic, 1905) in Hungary
(Coleoptera: Lycidae)

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Abstract – The net-winged beetle *Benibotarus taygetanus* (PIC, 1905) is reported for the first time from Hungary. It was collected in five localities: Ipolytarnóc (Nógrád county, northern Hungary), Cserszegtomaj, Keszthely, Rezi (Zala county, western Hungary) and Vigántpetend (Veszprém county, western Hungary). A check-list of the Hungarian species of Lycidae and Omalisidae is given. With 2 figures.

Key words – *Benibotarus taygetanus*, Lycidae, Hungary, Ipolytarnóc.

HISTORY OF BENIBOTARUS TAYGETANUS (PIC) IN HUNGARY

Benibotarus taygetanus (PIC, 1905) (Fig. 1) was mentioned from the Carpathian Basin by KASZAB (1955: 19) under the name “*Dictyopterus Fiedleri* REITT.” He wrote the following:

“Előfordul Délkelet-Európában és Közép-Európa keleti felében. Faunaterületünkön eddig csak a Kárpátokból ismerjük (Herkulesfürdőtől a Nyugati-Beszkidekig). Nagyon ritka. Magyarországi előfordulása várható.” [Distributed in Southeast Europe and in the eastern part of Central Europe. So far it is known in our faunal region from the Carpathians only (from Bâile Herculane to Western Beskydy Mts). Very rare. Its occurrence in Hungary is expected.]

The species was unknown from the present-day Hungary until 1996, when specimens were found in Ipolytarnóc.

The Ipolytarnóc Fossils Nature Conservation Area (Ipolytarnói Ósmaradványok Természetvédelmi Terület) is a well-known paleontological site situated in Nógrád county (northern Hungary) near the Slovakian border. It ranks among the richest findings of preserved traces of the Tertiary fauna all over the world. It received protected status in 1944 and in 1995 the Council of Europe awarded it the European Diploma.

The senior author has been collecting beetles in the area since 1994. In 1996, five specimens of *Benibotarus taygetanus* (PIC, 1905) were collected, followed by further specimens in 1998, 2000 and 2004 (see Lycidae and Omalisidae collected in Ipolytarnóc). Most of the specimens were captured by the use of sweep-net in shaded parts of a highly degraded oak forest mixed with non-indigenous trees (*Betula pendula*, *Pinus sylvestris*, *Pinus nigra*, *Robinia pseudoacacia*) and with rich undergrowth. One specimen was found on white-washed wall of a house in a clearing.

In 2003, in beetle materials coming from the Keszthely Hills (Zala county, western Hungary) the junior author found two lycid specimens which also proved to be *Benibotarus taygetanus* (PIC). The first specimen has the following data: Zala m., Cserszegtomaj, Csóka-kő, 17. VII. 1993, leg. ELŐD KONDOROSY. It was collected in a xerothermic hill slope at the edge of woods of sessile oak (*Quercus*



Fig. 1. *Benibotarus taygetanus* (Pic, 1905)

petraea). The second specimen has the following data: Zala m., Rezi, Púpos-hegy, fénycsapda [= light trap], 10. VII. 2002, leg. LEVENTE ÁBRAHÁM. The light trap was set up by lepidopterists in a xerothermic habitat as well.

While compiling the manuscript of this paper, the senior author determined the unnamed Hungarian material of Lycidae deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM). Two further specimens of *Benibotarus taygetanus* (PIC) were found. The first is with the following label data: Veszprém m., Vigántpetend, autós hálózás [= netting with car], 27. VII. 2002, leg. OTTÓ MERKL. It was collected at sunset with a net attached to the roof of a car driven on roads through managed oak forests and clearings. The second specimen has the following data: Zala m., Keszthely, Szár-hegy, 280 m, fűhálózás [= swept], 13. VII. 1982, leg. OTTÓ MERKL. It was swept among shrubs at the edge of an old plantation of Scotch pine (*Pinus sylvestris*).

The Hungarian localities are depicted in an UTM map (Fig. 2). All the specimens were identified by the senior author. The material is deposited in the HNHM (Budapest) and in the private collection of Mr. ISTVÁN LANTOS (Salgótarján).

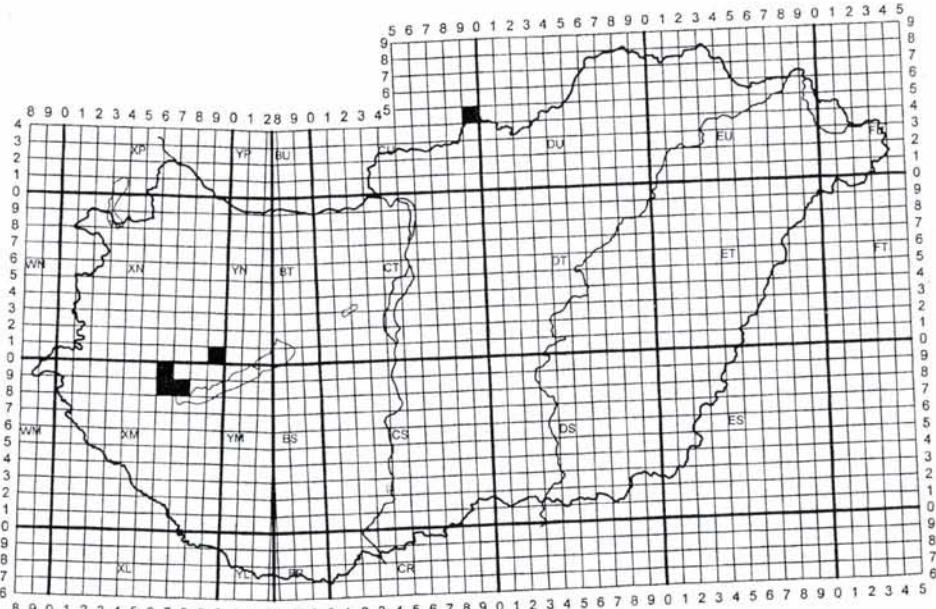


Fig. 2. Localities of *Benibotarus taygetanus* (Pic, 1905) in Hungary. XN 90 = Vigántpetend, XM 68 = Cserszegtomaj, XM 69 = Rezi, XM 78 = Keszthely, CU 94 = Ipolytarnóc

NOTES ON *BENIBOTARUS TAYGETANUS* (PIC)

Scarcely anything has been published on this species since PIC'S (1905) and REITTER'S (1907) descriptions. REITTER (1913) published its locality in Lysá hora in "schlesischen Beskiden". MÜLLER (1926) reported it from the Paklenica Valley in the Velebit Mts, Croatia (Dalmatia). The species was redescribed and *Dictyopterus fiedleri* REITTER, 1907 was synonymized with *Benibotarus taygetanus* (PIC, 1905) by BOCÁK & BOCÁKOVÁ (1987). It can be readily identified from the key provided by KASZAB (1955). According to LADISLAV BOCÁK (e-mail message received 26 February 2003), it is distributed in Germany (Bayern), Czech Republic (SW and E Bohemia, and Beskydy Mts in Moravia), Poland (Bieszczady Mts, i. e. the northern part of the Beskydy Mts), Slovakia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Romania and Greece (Taygetos Mts). Larval development and immature stages are unknown. Adults are short-lived, seldom fly, and probably do not stray far from the site of larval development. In Greece, the species was found in high mountain *Abies* forests, in Central Europe in the foliage of humid and shaded forest stretches between 300 and 800 m above sea level. However, the collecting circumstances of the Hungarian specimens suggest that the species can be found in a wider range of arboreal habitats.

Apart from the Hungarian material, the Coleoptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum has further specimens from other countries with the following data.

CZECH REPUBLIC. Beskiden, Lissahorageb. [= Beskydy, Lysá hora], TH. v. WANKA (2 specimens). ROMANIA. Brassó m., Honterus-forrás [= jud. Brașov, Honterus spring], 12. VII. 1918, J. FODOR (1 specimen); Herculesbad [= Băile Herculane] (holotype of *Dictyopterus fiedleri* Reitter, 1907); Herkulesfürdő [= Băile Herculane], coll. MIHÓK (1 specimen); Paring havas, Izvorul-völgy [= Munții Parângului, Valea Izvorului], 600–800 m, fűhálózva [= swept], 7. VIII. 1956, ENDRÓDY-YOUNGA (1 specimen); Udvarhely m., Homoródfürdő [= jud. Harghita, Băile Homorud at Căpâlnița], 700 m, 8–28. VII. 1943, ÉHIK & LOKSA (1 specimen); Hargita m., Homoródfürdő, [= jud. Harghita, Băile Homorud at Căpâlnița], fűhálózás [= swept], 7. VII. 1995, leg. A. PODLUSSÁNY (2 specimens).

LYCIDAE AND OMALISIDAE COLLECTED IN Ipolytarnóc

Benibotarus taygetanus (PIC, 1905) – Ipolytarnóc: Gyurtyánkő-oldal, fűhálózás [= swept], 9. VII. 1996, leg. OTTÓ MERKL; Ipolytarnóc: Gyurtyánkő-oldal, 24. VI. 1998, leg. ISTVÁN LANTOS; Ipolytarnóc: Felső-Hólya, Házfalról [= from house wall], 28. VI. 2000, leg. OTTÓ MERKL; Ipolytarnóc: Gyurtyánkő-oldal, fűhálózás [= swept], 28. VI. 2000, leg. OTTÓ MERKL; Ipolytarnóc, Gyurtyánkő-oldal, fűhálózás [= swept], 30. VI. 2004, leg. OTTÓ MERKL, ARANKA GRABANT & ZOLTÁN GYÖRGY.

Lygistopterus sanguineus (LINNAEUS, 1758) – Ipolytarnóc: Gyurtyánkő-oldal, swept, 9. VII. 1996, leg. OTTÓ MERKL.

Platycis cosnardi (CHEVROLAT, 1838) – Ipolytarnóc: Borókás-árok, fűhálózás [= swept], 30. V. 1999, leg. OTTÓ MERKL.

Pyropterus nigroruber (DE GEER, 1774) – Ipolytarnóc: Borókás-árok, 18. VI. 1998, leg. ISTVÁN LANTOS; Ipolytarnóc: Gyurtyánkő-oldal, 24. VI. 1998, leg. ISTVÁN LANTOS; Ipolytarnóc, Gyurtyánkő-oldal, út mellett [= roadside], 18. VI. 2003, leg. OTTÓ MERKL, ARANKA GRABANT & ZOLTÁN GYÖRGY.

Omalisus fontisbellaquei (GEOFFROY, 1762) – Ipolytarnóc: Borókás-árok, 18. VI. 1998, leg. ISTVÁN LANTOS; Ipolytarnóc, Gyurtyánkő-oldal, fűhálózás [= swept], 30. VI. 2004, leg. OTTÓ MERKL, ARANKA GRABANT & ZOLTÁN GYÖRGY.

CHECK-LIST OF THE HUNGARIAN LYCIDAE AND OMALISIDAE

KASZAB (1955) treated all genera and species belonging here in a single family Lycidae, but Omalisidae is widely accepted to be a separate family. Classification and nomenclature follows BOCÁK (1993), BOCÁK & BOCÁKOVÁ (1990) and LAWRENCE & NEWTON (1995). Hungarian names are proposed for all species.

Lycidae LAPORTE, 1836 – Net-winged beetles – Hajnalbogárfélék

Erotinae LECONTE, 1881

Benibotarus KONO, 1932

taygetanus (PIC, 1905) – tarnói hajnalbogár
= *fiedleri* REITTER, 1907

Dictyoptera LATREILLE, 1829 (= *Dictyopterus* MULSANT, 1838)

aurora (HERBST, 1784) – nagy hajnalbogár

Lopheros LECONTE, 1881 (= *Aplatopterus* REITTER, 1911)

rubens (GYLLENHAL, 1817) – cinóbervörös hajnalbogár

Platycis C. G. THOMSON, 1864 (= *Glabroplatycis* PIC, 1914)

cosnardi (CHEVROLAT, 1838) – szegélyesnyakú hajnalbogár

minutus (FABRICIUS, 1787) – kis hajnalbogár

Pyropterus MULSANT, 1838

nigroruber (DE GEER, 1774) – skarlátvörös hajnalbogár
= *affinis* PAYKULL, 1799

Calochrominae LACORDAIRE, 1857

Lygistopterus MULSANT, 1838

sanguineus (LINNAEUS, 1758) – vérbogár

Omalisidae LACORDAIRE, 1857
 [No English name available] – Ál-hajnalbogárfélék

Omalisus GEOFFROY, 1762 (= *Homalisus* of authors)
fontisbellaquei GEOFFROY, 1762 – közönséges ál-hajnalbogár

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