

**Alcidodes karelinii, new to Hungary
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Molytinae)**

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Abstract – *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844) is recorded for the first time from Hungary. With 6 figures.

Key words – beetles, Curculionoidea, new country record

INTRODUCTION

Alcidodes karelinii (Boheman, 1844) (Fig. 1) was described (as *Alcides karelini*) from Astrabad (now Gorgan) in Golestan Province, Iran. The species is known to occur in several parts throughout the Eurasian steppe belt (Fig. 2), from Eastern Europe (south of European Russia, Ukraine) through Transcaucasia (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan), West Siberia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran and Afghanistan to northwestern China (Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region) (ALONSO-ZARAZAGA *et al.* 2017, GÜLTEKIN *et al.* 2019). The known host plant of *A. karelinii* is the Field Bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis* L. (GÜLTEKIN *et al.* 2019). The present paper provides the first locality data of this weevil species in Hungary.

Abbreviations – CVS = private collection of Valentin Szénási (Isaszeg, Hungary); HNHM = Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest (Budapest, Hungary).

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(Figs 1–6)

Material examined – **Csongrád county:** Dóc, Dóci-puszta, 46°25'10.99"N, 20°09'38.81"E, swept, 18.VIII.2019, leg. & det. V. Szénási (1 male, CVS); Sándorfalva, Vöröscsárdai-forest, 31.VII.2019, swept, leg. G. Vári, det. V. Szénási (1 male, HNHM); same but 46°23'49.1"N, 20°07'20.8"E, 4.VIII.2019, swept, leg. & det. V. Szénási (2 females, 1 male, CVS); Sándorfalva, along Dóc-Erzsébeti canal, 46°23'43.53"N, 20°08'52.54"E, swept, 17.VIII.2019, leg. & det. V. Szénási (1 male, HNHM, 1 male, 1 female, CVS); same but 46°23'44.56"N, 20°08'29.13"E, 17.VIII.2019, leg. & det. V. Szénási (2 males, 2 females, CVS); Sándorfalva, Vöröscsárda-dűlő, 46°23'54.72"N, 20°09'29.01"E, swept, 18.VIII.2019, leg. & det. V. Szénási (3 males, 2 females, CVS); Sándorfalva, Szokony, 46°24'43.04"N, 20°09'35.20"E, swept 18.VIII.2019, leg. & det. V. Szénási (1 female, CVS); Sándorfalva, 46°23'39.75"N, 20°08'28.76"E, swept and hand collected from *Convulvulus arvensis*, 26.VIII.2019, leg. & det. G. Vári (2 males, 3 females, HNHM).

Remarks – On 31 July 2019, the second author (GV) collected an attractive weevil specimen (Figs 3–4) in Sándorfalva (Csongrád county) by sweep-netting, which was identified as an *Alcidodes* species, possibly *A. karelinii*, with the help of Internet images and distribution data. The tentative identification was later confirmed by the first author (VSz). The authors then set out to collect further specimens in the area. Altogether, 23 specimens were found near the first locality (Fig. 6) in a period extending until 26 August 2019.

A. karelinii is a conspicuous weevil species, therefore the lack of earlier collecting data might suggest that the species arrived in Hungary quite recently. According to KOROTYAEV (2013), *A. karelinii* has spread westwardly in recent years. However, the previously known westernmost locality is situated near Odessa, more than 800 kilometres from the Hungarian collecting sites. Whether the species overcome this huge distance by anthropogenic means or by natural spreading remains to be seen.

Alternatively it is also possible that the species was simply overlooked by the collectors working in Hungary. The adults of *A. karelinii* in Hungary seemed to emerge in mid and late summer and were active at sunset and in the night, when most coleopterists rarely make collecting with sweep-net. This is, however, less probable, as in the newly inhabited area of southwestern Russia the beetles are regularly, although as single individuals, were swept in the daytime when the host plant is at early stage of the development and not noticeable in the vegetation (Boris Korotyaev, pers. comm.).

The proposed Hungarian name of *A. karelinii* is pompás szulákormányos.



Fig. 1. *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844), habitus, right lateral view. Scale = 1 mm (photo by Henrik Gyurkovics)



Fig. 2. General distribution of *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844). Yellow circles are based on GÜLTEKIN *et al.* (2019). Red circle shows the Hungarian occurrence



Figs 3–4. *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844) at Sándorfalva, Hungary (photos by Gábor Vári)



Fig. 5. Habitat of *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844) at Vöröscsárdai-forest, Sándorfalva, Csongrád county, Hungary (photo by Valentin Szénási)



Fig. 6. Hungarian localities of *Alcidodes karelinii* (Boheman, 1844) (red circles)

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