

***Blepisanis vittipennis* (Reiche 1877) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae),
a new longhorn beetle for Serbia***Aca Đurđević¹, Milan Đurić²*¹*University of Niš, Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Biology and Ecology,
Višegradska 33, 18000 Niš, Serbia*²*HabiProt, Belgrade, Serbia** *E-mail: djukiamphibia@gmail.com***Abstract:*****Đurđević, A., Đurić, M.: Blepisanis vittipennis* (Reiche 1877) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae), a new longhorn beetle for Serbia, *Biologica Nyssana*, 2 (2), December 2011: 129-130.**

A longhorn beetle species, *Blepisanis vittipennis*, known so far in Europe but only from Greece and Bulgaria, was recorded for the first time in the fauna of Serbia, increasing number of recorded longhorn beetle species to 238.

Key words: *Blepisanis vittipennis*, Cerambycidae, Preševo, Serbia.

Blepisanis vittipennis (Reiche, 1877) is one of two representatives of the genus *Blepisanis* in Europe. The other species, *B. melanocephala* (Fabricius, 1787) inhabits only island of Sicily, while *B. vittipennis* is distributed in SE Balkan peninsula, Caucasus, Turkey and Near East (Hoskovec & Rejzek, 1991-2011). In the Balkan Peninsula, the species is reported as common in continental Greece and Bulgaria (Sama, 2002), as well as in the Near East - Turkey (Özdikmen & Turgut, 2008).

As a part of first systematic entomological research in Serbia, on June 4 2011, a group of researchers visited poorly investigated region in southeast of Serbia, Miratovac village in vicinity of Preševo. The most interesting habitats were found to the east of the village, at an altitude of 551 m, situated at 42°16'20" N, 21°39'1.6" E. The location is an area with a strong submediterranean influence, probably felt more than anywhere else in Serbia. The biotope comprises mostly of fragmented *Quercus pubescens* forest and dry, rocky pastures, despite the fact that wider area is predominantly used for crop planting.

During that survey, one specimen of *Blepisanis vittipennis* was found on *Dianthus sp.* The series of photographs was taken, but since authors did not recognize species and significance of the finding, specimen was not collected for further analysis (**Fig. 1**). Good photographs enabled Dr. Nastas Ilić to determine species and emphasize importance of this finding.

First systematic review of longhorn beetles in Serbia (Ilić, 2005) listed a total of 245 taxa of this family, but some were marked with a question mark due to unreliable findings, some listed as species at the time were given status of subspecies. Therefore, having in mind the most widely used taxonomy (Fauna Europaea, 2011), list of longhorn beetles recorded in Serbia comprised 237 species (HabiProt, 2005-2011), and with this finding comes up to 238.

The finding of *Blepisanis vittipennis* in Serbia is significant because it increases the species areal towards the west, and vicinity of the location to Macedonia implies that presence of the species in that country is probable.



Figure 1. *Blepisanis vittipennis* near Miratovac village. Photo: Milan Đurić

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