FIRST RECORD OF OZOGNATHUS CORNUTUS (LECONTE, 1859) (COLEOPTERA PTINIDAE) FROM SARDINIA, ITALY

The genus Ozognathus LeConte, 1861 (Bostrichoidae, Ptinidae, Ermobiinæ) currently includes twelve described species from the Nearctic and Neotropical regions (Zahradník & Mifsud, 2005).

Among these, Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859) was described in California (USA) (LeConte, 1859, as Anobium cornutum); its type specimen is deposited in the California Academy of Sciences (White, 1982). Confirmed in California (White, 1982), in the areas adjacent to Mexico, in South America (e.g., in Chile; Honor & Rothmann, 2017), as well as in Réunion in the Indian Ocean (Lemagnen, 2013), this species recently spread to Australia (Sydney, New South Wales) (Plant Health Australia, 2019), New Zealand (Bercedo et al., 2005), Israel (Milkowski, 2019), Tunisia (Zahradník & Mifsud, 2005) and, recently, in Europe. It has been recorded in Latvia (around Ulbroka) (Telnov et al., 2016), Great Britain (Eccles, 2017), Germany (Tübingen), Switzerland (Zurich) (Germann & Schmidt, 2017; Chittaro & Sanchez, 2019), southern France (Pourcieux) (Allemand et al., 2008), Spain (Cadiz, Catalonia, Alicante, Valencia) (Bercedo et al., 2005; Vinolas & Verdugo, 2012, Trócoli et al., 2020), Madeira Island (Funchal) (Zahradník & Mifsud, 2005), Gibraltar (GONHS, 2020), Canary Islands (Island of La Palma and Island of Tenerife) (Vinolas et al., 2018), and Malta (Marsa, TalMuxar, Żejtun) (Zahradník & Mifsud, 2005). The first published Italian records were reported from Sicily (Palermo) and Campania (Portici) regions by Cusimano et al. (2014) and subsequently reconfirmed, without further details, for Sicily by Sidoti et al. (2016).

We provide the first records of Ozognatus cornutus (LeConte, 1859) in Sardinia based on an intensive sampling conducted in Southern-Sardinia from April 2018 to December 2019.

INTRODUCTION

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STUDY AREA

Sardinia, one Mediterranean hotspot for biodiversity conservation (Marignani et al., 2017a, b; Médail, 2017), located in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, is the second-largest Mediterranean island, after Sicily, covering a surface area of around 24,000 km² (Palumbo et al., 2020). Thanks to its variety of landforms, complex orographic patterns (with hilly lands, plateaus, mountain and plains), heterogeneous geological substrata and climate variability (Bazzato et al., 2021), the island is characterized by high levels of biodiversity and different vegetation types (Bacchetta et al., 2009).

We collected the species during a field campaign aimed to investigate the impact of land-use matrices on plants and arthropod communities of Small Woodlots Outside Forests (hereafter, SWOFs) in the Metropolitan City of Cagliari (Palumbo et al., 2020; E.Bazzato, PhD dissertation 2021). We randomly selected 30 SWOFs (Fig. 1) ranging from 0.1 to 0.5 hectares, by means of a stratified random sampling design in proportion to the number of target SWOFs present in each land-use stratum: 11 sites in natural and semi-natural (NAT) and agricultural (AGR) areas, 8 in urban and artificial surfaces (URB). All sampled sites were listed following the site code assigned based on the correspondent land-use stratum (Tab. 1).

DATA COLLECTION

In the centroid of each SWOF, we placed at 5–10 meters above ground a Cross-vanes Window Flight Trap (CWFT, Fig II) for a total of 30 traps. Traps were active starting from July to October for the first year (2018), and from June to December for the second year (2019). Traps were re-triggered every 30–40 days (except for the last period ranging from August to December 2019) with ethylene glycol as non-attractive liquid preservative. All specimens from each site and trap were sorted
Fig. I - Study area located in the Metropolitan City of Cagliari (southern Sardinia, Italy), characterized by a gradient of land-use intensification from natural and semi-natural areas to urbanised coastline zones.

Fig. II – Cross-vanes Window Flight Trap (CWFT) placed on Robinia pseudoacacia within the SWOF located in Quartu Sant’Elena (Is Arenas, Via Pizzetti; site code URB 176) (photo by E. Bazzato).

Fig. III – Habitus of Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859) ♀ (photo by C. Ancona; scale bar 1 mm).
and stored by the authors (EB, MC, CA). The determination is still in progress.

IDENTIFICATION AND NOMENCLATURE

Specimens were examined using an Optika SZM-T stereomicroscope. They were morphologically identified by the authors (EB, CA, DC) using photographs reported by ZAHRADNÍK & MIFSUD (2005), as well as dichotomous key provided by FALL (1905). Habitus photograph was taken with a Pentax K7 digital camera attached to a Optika SZM-T stereoscope (Fig. III). Dry specimens were prepared and deposited in the private collection of the first and fifth authors (EB & DC).

The species has been reported on several host plant species (Tab. 2); nomenclature of host plant species follows BARTOLUCCI et al. (2018, 2020), GALASSO et al. (2018, 2020), FREIBERG et al. (2020), and ROSATI et al. (2020).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859)

(Fig. III)

EXAMINED MATERIAL: Sardinia: Quartu Sant’Elena (Cagliari province), Is Arenas, Via Pizzetti, site code URB 176: 19.VII–19.VIII.2019, 1 ♂ window trap on Robinia pseudoacacia, E. Bazzato, M. Caria & C. Ancona legerunt, det. E. Bazzato & C. Ancona; 19.VIII–03.XII.2019, 1 ♂ window trap on Robinia pseudoacacia, E. Bazzato, M. Caria & C. Ancona leg, det. E. Bazzato & D. Cillo.

The biology of O. cornutus is poorly known (STENHOUSE, 2017; VINOLAS, 2017), although recently its distribution range increased considerably in the temperate areas of the Euro-Mediterranean region, with the possibility of a further spread in Mediterranean territories in a relatively short time (ZAHRADNÍK & MIFSUD, 2005; VINOLAS, 2017; MIŁKOWSKI, 2019). This species is known as polyphagous and easily adapts to a multitude of climates and a wide variety of microhabitats (dried fruit, gall produced by insects), herbaceous plants, as well as in the bark and wood of various deciduous and coniferous trees (STENHOUSE, 2017; VINOLAS, 2017). The species seems to spread easily: in Switzerland, some specimens hatched from a head of garlic (Allium sativum) from Sicily bought on a market in Zurich (CHITTARO & SANCHEZ 2019; GERMANN & SCHMIDT, 2017).

Given its known adaptability, it is not surprising that O. cornutus has been found in different part of plants and different species. In particular, previous records were mainly attributable to Asteraceae family (Tab. 2), for a total of six species belonging to six genera (Achillea L., Argyranthemum Webb, Baccharis L., Helianthus L., Scolymus L., Silybum Vaill.) and secondly, to Fagaceae family, with four species belonging to a genus (Quercus L.). Furthermore, other families fairly represented by these records are Araucariaceae and Rosaceae, each with three species (Tab. 2).

To a lesser extent, with one or two species, Acanthaceae, Aizoaceae, Amaryllidiaceae, Areaceae, Ebenaceae, Euphorbiaceae, Fabaceae, Lauraceae, Lythraceae, Moraceae, Oleaceae, Passifloraceae, Pinaceae, Rutaceae, Proteaceae and Simmondsiaceae families are mentioned (Tab. 2).

We recorded samples from 30 cross-vanes window flight traps placed in 30 individual trees belonging to 8 families, for a total of 9 genera and 11 different species considered (Tab. 1). Data reported were gathered in 30 randomly selected small woodlots outside forest along an area with an increasing urbanization gradient: notably, we found two individuals of O. cornutus only in one of those traps, placed on the invasive alien tree Robinia pseudoacacia L., native to eastern North America, (WESTBROOKS, 1998; REJMÁNEK & RICHARDSON, 2013), within a SWOF located in a public garden of the urban area, at the extreme of our gradient of land-use intensification.

Our finding, as well as being the first record from Sardinia island, reports an association with an invasive alien plant species not yet reported in other studies. Furthermore, although O. cornutus is able to colonize different environmental condition and climates, finding it only in an urban area suggests that its introduction could have occurred accidentally and in recent times, mainly due to the international trade in fruit, vegetables and alien plants (CUSIMANO et al., 2014).

Data on the presence of alien species are important since early detection and rapid response are key components for the successful management of Invasive Alien Species (COUGHLAN et al., 2020): our data suggest a relatively recent introduction on the island and the hypothesis of a possible rapid expansion of this species into other areas.

CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of newly introduced species is of great importance for preventing new biological invasions, which can cause damage to biodiversity, economy and human well-being (GENOVAI & SHINE, 2004). As for now, O. cornutus is considered to be harmful to heritage works (MANACHI, 2017); nevertheless, although there is no particular evidence in the literature of phytosanitary emergencies caused by O. cornutus (PENCE, 1950; BERCEO et al., 2005), due to the behavior of the species (polyphagia, adaptability, marked propensity to passive transport), its rapid expansion in other urban areas up to natural ones cannot be excluded. Hence, this species deserves to be monitored with caution and, in case of discovery, it would be good practice to inform the competent bodies of the sector by providing location data to monitor the dispersal capacity of the species and evaluate the expansion of its distribution range.
Table 1 – List of the 30 Small Woodlots Outside Forests investigated along the gradient of land-use intensification. Municipality, locality, coordinates (expressed as metric units in the Monte Mario/Italy Zone reference system, EPSG 3003), altitude (m a.s.l.) and plant species hosting the cross-vanes window flight trap are listed.

| Site code | Municipality | Locality | E     | N     | Altitude | Family          | Plant species                                      |
|-----------|--------------|----------|-------|-------|----------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| AGR_14    | Maracalagonis| Corongiu, Sirigra-giu | 1524102 | 4348373 | 81       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus tereticornis Sm.                       |
| AGR_18    | Maracalagonis| Corongiu, Carro-ghedda | 1522637 | 4348319 | 85       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| AGR_35    | Quartucciu   | Piscina Nuxedda | 1526348 | 4345063 | 52       | Oleaceae        | Olea europaea L.                                   |
| AGR_66    | Quartu S.E.  | Cani Nieddu, Frap-ponti, Corongiu | 1526881 | 4342688 | 84       | Oleaceae        | Olea europaea L.                                   |
| AGR_85    | Maracalagonis| Corongiu | 1524097 | 4346644 | 60       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| AGR_102   | Quartu S.E.  | Simbirizzi, Sa Guardia Lada | 1520859 | 4345293 | 35       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| AGR_152   | Maracalagonis| Gruxi Lilius, Bacca Aruis | 1525980 | 4346952 | 99       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| AGR_163   | Quartu S.E.  | Stagno di Quarto, C. D'Aquila | 1515340 | 4341892 | 3        | Oleaceae        | Olea europaea L.                                   |
| AGR_FA_6  | Quartu S.E.  | Str. Comunale Cani Nieddu | 1526824 | 4342368 | 68       | Oleaceae        | Olea europaea L.                                   |
| AGR_FA_21 | Maracalagonis| Riu Piscina Nuxe-dda | 1527337 | 4347432 | 80       | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| NAT_1     | Quartucciu   | Corti de Perda | 1528394 | 4344041 | 120      | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| NAT_2     | Maracalagonis| Sette Fratelli, Co-doleddu | 1533610 | 4344508 | 700      | Salicaceae      | Salix atrocinerea Brot. subsp. atrocinerea         |
| NAT_12    | Maracalagonis| Riu Monte Nieddu | 1528748 | 4346698 | 140      | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| NAT_31    | Sinnai       | Sette Fratelli, Monte Cresia | 1534230 | 4347117 | 663      | Ericaceae       | Arbutus unedo L.                                   |
| NAT_32    | Sinnai       | Sette Fratelli, Monte Cresia | 1534003 | 4347255 | 677      | Ericaceae       | Arbutus unedo L.                                   |
| NAT_34    | Maracalagonis| Villagio dei Gigli | 1528227 | 4347442 | 120      | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| NAT_42    | Sinnai       | Burranca | 1527821 | 4349531 | 150      | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| NAT_48    | Maracalagonis| Sette Fratelli, Co-doleddu | 1533816 | 4344788 | 714      | Salicaceae      | Salix atrocinerea Brot. subsp. atrocinerea         |
| NAT_101   | Maracalagonis| Corongiu, Sedda Brandanu | 1525242 | 4349318 | 140      | Salicaceae      | Populus canescens (Aiton) Sm.                      |
| NAT_115   | Maracalagonis| Sette Fratelli, Co-doleddu | 1533989 | 4344598 | 706      | Salicaceae      | Salix atrocinerea Brot. subsp. atrocinerea         |
| NAT_116   | Maracalagonis| Sette Fratelli, Co-doleddu | 1533830 | 4344308 | 700      | Fagaceae        | Quercus suber L.                                   |
| AGR_FA_5  | Quartu S.E.  | Stagno di Quarto, Binga Spada | 1514588 | 4341874 | 5        | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| URB_48    | Quartu S.E.  | Via delle Bougan-ville | 1524342 | 4342823 | 22       | Tamarica-ceae   | Tamarix canariensis Wild.                         |
| URB_77    | Quartu S.E.  | Sant'Antonio, Via Belgio | 1517111 | 4343897 | 9        | Myrtaceae       | Eucalyptus camaldulensis Dehnh. subsp. camaldulen-sis |
| URB_176   | Quartu S.E.  | Is Arenas, Via Pizzetti | 1515564 | 4342648 | 6        | Fabaceae        | Robinia pseudoacacia L.                           |
| URB_186   | Quartu S.E.  | Sant'Andrea, Via Rimini | 1523304 | 4340905 | 4        | Pinaceae        | Pinus halepensis Mill. subsp. halepensis           |
| Family              | Current accepted host plant name | Reference and host plant name originally reported |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Acanthaceae         | *Acanthus mollis* L.             | LUER, 2020, as *Acanthus mollis* L.               |
| Aizoaceae           | *Carpobrotus edulis* (L.) N.E.Br. | KNAPP, 2014, as *Carpobrotus edulis* (L.) N.E.BROWN, 1926 |
| Amaranthaceae       | *Allium sativum* L.              | GERMANN & SCHMIDT, 2017, as *Allium sativum*     |
| Apiaceae            | *Eryngium campestre* L.          | YUS RAMOS et al., 2019, as *Eryngium campestre* L. |
| Apiaceae            | *Foeniculum vulgare* Mill.      | BERCEO et al., 2005, as *Foeniculum vulgare*     |
| Araliaceae          | *Schefflera arboricola* (Hayata) Merr. | TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Schefflera arboricola* (Hayata) Merr. 1916 |
| Araucariaceae       | *Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze | LUER, 2020, as *Araucaria angustifolia* (Bertol.) Kuntze |
| Araucariaceae       | *Araucaria bidwillii* Hook.     | LUER, 2020, as *Araucaria bidwillii* Hook.       |
| Araucariaceae       | *Araucaria heterophylla* (Salish.) Franco | LUER, 2020, as *Araucaria heterophylla* (Salish.) Franco |
| Areceaceae          | *Phoenix dactylifera* L.         | TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Phoenix dactylifera* L. 1753 |
| Asteraceae          | *Achillea millefolium* L.       | BERCEO et al., 2005, as Cardo                   |
| Asteraceae          | *Argyranthemum* spp.            | GARCIA et al., 2016, as *Argyranthemum* spp.    |
| Asteraceae          | *Baccharis pilularis* D.C.       | TILDEN, 1951, as *Baccharis pilularis* De Candolle |
| Asteraceae          | *Helianthus annuus* L.           | LUER, 2020, as *Helianthus annuus* L.            |
| Asteraceae          | *Scolymus hispanicus* L.        | BERCEO et al., 2005, as *Scolymus hispanicus*   |
| Asteraceae          | *Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertn. | GARCIA et al., 2016, as *Silybum marianum* (L.) Gaertn. |
| Betulaceae          | *Alnus* sp.                     | VIÑOLAS & VERDUGO, 2011, as *Alnus* sp.          |
| Ebenaceae           | *Diospyros kaki* L.f.           | LUER, 2020, as *Diospyros kaki* L. f.           |
| Euphorbiaceae       | *Euphorbia characias* L.        | TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Euphorbia characias* L. 1753 |
| Fabaceae            | *Retama monosperma* (L.) Boiss. | BERCEO et al., 2005, as *Retama monosperma*; GARCIA et al., 2016, as *Retama rhodorhizoides* Webb & Berthel. |
| **Fabaceae**        | **Robinia pseudacacia** L.      | **Present work**                                 |
| Fabaceae            | *Tamarindus indica* L.          | TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Tamarindus indica* L. 1753 |
| Fabaceae            | *Quercus agrifolia* Née         | TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Quercus agrifolia* Née, 1801 |
| Fabaceae            | *Quercus crassipes* Kunth       | VIÑOLAS, 2017, as *Quercus crassipes* Bonpl.    |
| Fabaceae            | *Quercus obtusa* Kunth          | VIÑOLAS, 2017, as *Quercus obtusa* Bonpl.       |
| Fabaceae            | *Quercus suber* L.              | BERCEO et al., 2005, as *Quercus suber* L.      |
| Lauraceae           | *Persea americana* Mill.        | PENCE, 1950; EBELING, 1959, as Avocado          |
| Lythraceae          | *Punica granatum* L.            | LUER, 2020, as *Punica granatum* L.             |
| Moraceae            | *Ficus carica* L.               | BERCEO et al., 2005, as *Ficus carica*; MIŁKOWSKI, 2019, as *Ficus carica* L. |
| Oleaceae            | *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. syriaca (Boiss.) Valt. | MILKOWSKI, 2019, as *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. syriaca (Boiss.) |
| Passifloraceae      | *Passiflora caerulea* L.        | LUER, 2020, as *Passiflora caerulea* L.         |
| Pinaceae            | *Pinus* sp.                     | WHITE, 1982; PHILIPS, 2002, as Pine             |
| Proteaceae          | *Macadamia* sp.                | USDA, 1970, as Macadamia                        |
| Rosaceae            | *Prunus dulcis* (Mill.) D.A. Webb | ALLEMAND et al., 2008, as *Prunus dulcis*      |
| Rosaceae            | *Rheophilepis* bijas (Lour.) Galasso & Banfi | USDA, 1964, as Locus tree; TRÓCOLI et al., 2020, as *Rheophilepis bijas* (Lour.) Galasso & Banfi |
| Rosaceae            | *Rosa* sp.                     | LUER, 2020, as *Rosa* sp.                      |
| Rutaceae            | *Citrus limon* (L.) Osbeck     | PENCE, 1950, as Lemon                           |
| Simmondsiaceae      | *Simmondsia chinensis* (Link) C.K.Schneider | PINTO & FROMMER, 1980, as *Simmondsia chinensis* (Link) Schneider |
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