

Otiorhynchus (Tourneria) crataegi, found in The Netherlands (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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PALM, E., 1998. *OTIORHYNCHUS (TOURNERIA) CRATAEGI*, FOUND IN THE NETHERLANDS (COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE). – *ENT. BER., AMST.* 58 (10): 205-206.

Abstract: During a short visit to Cadzand Bad in the south-west of The Netherlands, *Otiorhynchus crataegi* was found in numbers by beating *Ligustrum* at night. The distribution in northern and north-western Europe is discussed.

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As a result of many years of search for weevils I have achieved the habit of looking for traces of these beetles everywhere. So, when I arrived on a camping site near Cadzand Bad at the Belgian border on the 16th of September 1997, I saw several privet (*Ligustrum vulgare* L.), that were heavily eaten by some *Otiorhynchus*. Several interesting *Otiorhynchus* species are associated with privet (for instance *O. lugdunensis* Boheman, *O. crataegi* Germar, *O. smreczynskii* Cmoluch, *O. dieckmanni* Magnano, *O. rotundus* Siebold and even *O. mastix* Olivier), so I was eager to examine the hedgerow, when it became dark. Around 11 o'clock at night a friend of mine and myself went out for beating the bushes. This resulted in numerous *Otiorhynchus*, all belonging to *O. crataegi* (subgenus *Tourneria*), a species formerly not known from The Netherlands.

As a matter of fact, the species is very little known at all from northern Europe, perhaps due to its strictly nocturnal activity. It was first found at Winzen, Luhe, in North-Germany in 1983 by my friend Kai Burgarth (Burgarth, 1989), who gave me a specimen and opened up my eyes to the species. The result was, when I found it near Copenhagen in Denmark, that I immediately recognized the species (Palm, 1990). It is also found in England in Thatcham and Old Winsor, Berkshire (D. G. H. Halstead), and now well established (Hodge & Jones, 1995). The discovery in Cadzand Bad is then the sixth locality in northern/north-western Europe as there are two si-

tes near Copenhagen. When the species first appeared in northern/north-western Europe, it was suggested that it was very casual, as the nearest known homeland was Austria (where I have also found it myself in Kärnten), but now it is known also from Oberbayern, Württemberg and possibly also from the Bodensee,

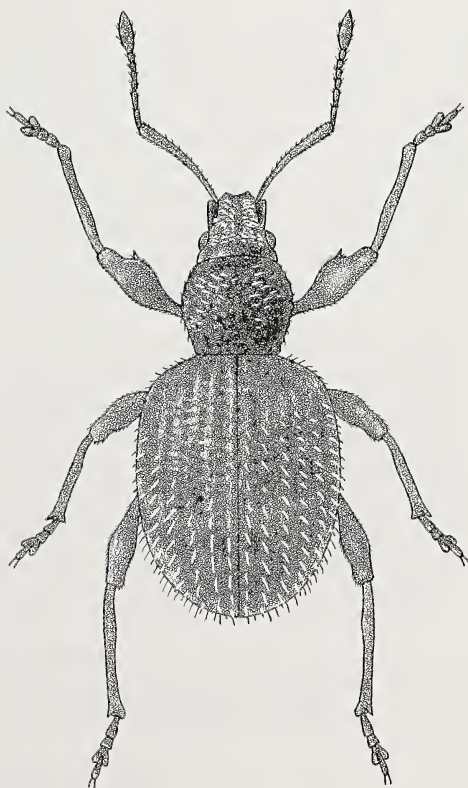


Fig. 1. *Otiorhynchus crataegi*. Drawing: Michael Hansen.

Baden (no specimens, only larval damage) in Germany, outside the original distribution in the Karpates, Romania, Italy, Bosnia and, more recently, France (Palm, 1996). The pattern seems to indicate a species imported with plants to nurseries, but capable of surviving in a new environment, and spreading into northern Europe. There are good reasons to look for the species also in other sites, as *O. crataegi* is no doubt more widespread than the few records indicate.

The species is known to eat also *Symphoricarpos*, *Cotoneaster* and *Syringa*. The larvae live within the roots and the newly emerged imagines are found from late July. Adults can be found all around the year, but are more numerous in autumn. It is easily recognizable (see fig. 1).

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