



**A new Anobiidae for the fauna of Belgium: *Oligomerus ptilinoides*
(Coleoptera, Bostrichoidea)**

Jérôme CONSTANT¹ & Ruth GORIS²

¹ Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Department of Entomology, Vautier street 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium. (E-mail: jerome.constant@naturalsciences.be).

² Design museum Gent, Departement Culture, City of Gent. Jan Breydelstraat 5, 9000 Gent, Belgium. (E-mail: Ruth.Goris@gent.be).

Abstract

Oligomerus ptilinoides (Wollaston, 1854) (Coleoptera, Bostrychoidea, Anobiidae) is reported from Belgium for the first time. It has been found in numbers in a museum in Gent. Illustrations of habitus are provided.

Keywords : Anobiidae, *Oligomerus ptilinoides*, Anobiid pest

Introduction

Oligomerus ptilinoides (Wollaston, 1854) is a species of Anobiidae showing a holo-Mediterranean distribution (ESPAÑOL, 1992). The species is reported to show mainly anthropophilous habits and to be the most common Anobiid pest for furniture in a large part of Spain. It infests wood of broad-leaved trees (*Ulmus*, *Fraxinus*, *Quercus*, *Acer*, *Malus*... (FOHRER, 2011)). It is also present in Japan where it was introduced with wood imported from Europe (ESPAÑOL, 1992).

Materials and methods

The specimens have been found during a routine control for pests (IPM – Integrated Pest Management) in the Design Museum of Gent in August 2011. Damages on wood paneling made of elm (*Ulmus* sp.) was observed.

The species was identified with the key of ESPAÑOL (1992). Identification has been confirmed by examination of the male genitalia.

***Oligomerus ptilinoides* (Wollaston, 1854)**

belg. n. sp.

Figs 1-5

Material examined: 14 ex: Belgium, Gent,

Design museum, 17.VIII.2011, ex *Ulmus* paneling, leg. Ruth Goris. Deposited in the collections of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

Comments

O. ptilinoides can be easily separated from *Anobium punctatum* (De Geer, 1774) by, a.o., its longer 3 apical segments (Fig. 3) of antennae and the striae of the elytra which not deeply punctured (Figs 1-2).

If it establishes permanently in Belgium, that species will have to be monitored in the same way as *A. punctatum* which has rather similar biology, except that *O. ptilinoides* is strictly xylophagous (FOHRER, 2011). The damages caused by both species are similar (Figs 4-5).

References

- ESPAÑOL F., 1992. - *Coleoptera Anobiidae*. In: Fauna Ibérica, vol. 2. Ramos, M.A. at al. (Eds). Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. CSIC. Madrid. 195 p.
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Figs 1-5. 1-3: *Oligomerus ptilinoides*. 1. dorsal view. 2. lateral view. 3. left antenna. 4. a room of the Design Museum where the specimens were found (location of the damages marked by arrow). 5. damages on an elm pannel.