

**First interception of the anthicid beetle**  
***Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) in Belgium**  
**(Coleoptera: Anthicidae: Anthicinae)**

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**Abstract**

In this paper, the first interception of *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) in Belgium is reported. This finding is presented and discussed here.

**Keywords:** Coleoptera, Anthicidae, Anthicinae, *Anthelephila caeruleipennis*, Belgium, first interception, distribution.

**Résumé**

Dans cet article, la première interception de *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) en Belgique est signalée. Cette capture est présentée et commentée.

**Samenvatting**

In dit artikel, tevens rapporteren we de eerste interceptie van *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) in België. De vangst wordt hier voorgesteld en besproken.

**Introduction**

The genus *Anthelephila* Hope, 1833 belongs to the Anthicinae Latreille, 1819 subfamily, and in recent years it was a topic of many publications, which have greatly increased the number of described species and knowledge about them. After the last study conducted by KEJVAL (2017), the genus comprises about 425 species. KEJVAL (2012) considered *Anthelephila* as a large Old World genus, most diverse in the tropics of Asia and Africa.

According to CHANDLER *et al.* (2008), BOLU (2016) and GARCÍA CARRILLO *et al.* (2018), *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) is located in Southern Europe (Spain, Gibraltar and Turkey), Northern Africa (Algeria, Canary Islands, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), Asia (Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen) and part of the Afrotropical Region.

Until recently, no specimen of *Anthelephila* had been intercepted in Belgium.

**First interception of *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847) in Belgium**

One *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* specimen (Fig. 1) was discovered by the first author and his son Lucas on 4 February 2018, in the living quarters (kitchen) of a house located in the Clos Tom et Jerry, commune of Jette situated in the Brussels-Capital Region, Belgium.

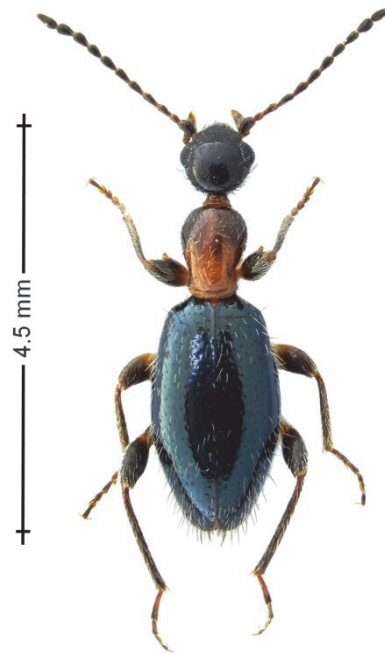


Fig. 1. *Anthelephila caeruleipennis* (La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1847). Habitus, dorsal view of the specimen found in February 2018, in Belgium (deposited in coll. RBINS) (Photo D. Ignace).

The specimen was found in a closed package of fresh raspberries (*Rubus idaeus* Linnaeus, 1753) bought the same day in a fruit and vegetable open market organized every week in the surrounding of Brussels (Wemmel, Vlaams Brabant province). The insect was able to move and very active in the plastic box, going from one raspberry to another.

The set of raspberries was produced in the province of Huelva in Spain. A visit to the website of the producer inform us that the origin of raspberries they sale are: "Spain (Huelva), Portugal or Morocco". The indication of the origin of raspberries of the package can therefore not be certified, but is one of these three countries.

A second individual was, to date, not found. The single *A. caeruleipennis* specimen collected is now preserved in the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS, Brussels, Belgium) and incorporated in the Belgian collection under the register number I.G.: 33.781.

### Discussion

The presence of Anthicinae specimens in stored food products is relatively common, as noted by BOUSQUET (1990), who indicated that up to eight different species of Anthicinae have been cited associated with stored products (mainly grains), although he says that some of the old quotes are due to wrong determinations. DELOBEL & TRAN (1993), shown that anthicids are occasionally associated with stored products, although they are detrital insects, that are usually found in plant debris or under their barks. LAURENT (1964) finds *Anthelephila alluaudi* (Pic, 1895) in cultivated legumes (*Phaseolus aureus* and *Stylosanthes gracilis*) from different areas of Madagascar. According to BERATLIEF & POPOV (2000), a species of Anthicinae, *Omonadus floralis* (Linnaeus, 1758), was found with different products imported from Europe, such as dried fruits, cocoa beans and wheat (its presence had already been detected in Jamaica, Hispaniola, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, Guadeloupe and Grenada). Expansion of species has occurred due to human action, as indicated by NARDI & MIFSUD (2003), which in relation to *Anthicus crinitus* La Ferté-Sénéctère, 1849, points out that these species are becoming cosmopolitan, probably due to the human commerce.

Regarding the host plant of the genus *Anthelephila* a large number of fruit tree species is already mentioned in the literature. KEJVAL (2010), described *Anthelephila maharani* Kejval, 2010, on

specimens captured entirely on fruit trees in cultivated areas. BOLU (2016), cites from Turkey *A. caeruleipennis* on almond trees (*Amygdalus communis*), also with ELONO AZANG *et al.* (2016), which detected the existence of *Anthelephila* sp. on different fruits of *Solanum* genus. Its insertion has been researched even by the Australian Government (COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, 2003), that includes the presence of *Anthelephila braminus* (Bonadona, 1964) in its risk analysis report as a plague of Longan tree (*Dimocarpus longan*).

The finding of one exemplar of *A. caeruleipennis* in a house in Belgium illustrates once again that some beetle can often travel undetected and collected thousands of kilometres outside of their native region.

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