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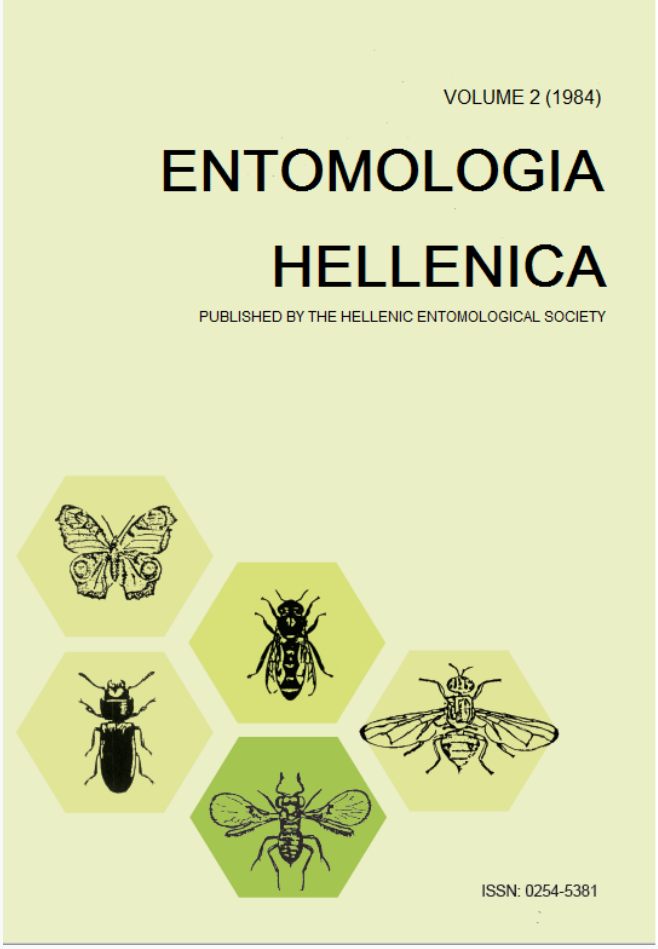

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Nathrius brevipennis (Mulsant 1839) (Col.: Cerambycidae) in Greece

L.A. SANTAS

Laboratory of Agric. Zoology and Entomology
College of Agricultural Sciences of Athens
Votanikos, Athens, Greece

In the spring of 1975, the trees of an almond orchard (*Prunus dulcis* (Miller) D.A. Webb) in Avliotes Corfu, were found to be severely infested by a wood borer insect in the larval stage (Fig. 1). Samples of infested with larvae twigs were preserved in the laboratory, and in the same year in September a number of adults emerged (Fig. 2). After identification this insect was found to be *Nathrius (Leptidea) brevipennis* (Mulsant 1839). Samples of this species are deposited in our laboratory.

This species caused important damage in the almond trees of the Avliotes area of Corfu during the years 1975-1976. The larvae were wood borers and caused the dying of twigs. Most damage was done to devitalized trees, so the recommendation to keep trees as healthy and vigorous as possible through fertilization, watering, pruning out dead and dying twigs and other cultural practices, gave good results. In 1977, in a survey trip in the Ioannina county another focus of infestation by this species on walnut trees (*Juglans regia* L.) was found. Another infestation on almond trees in Metsovo area was found in 1980.

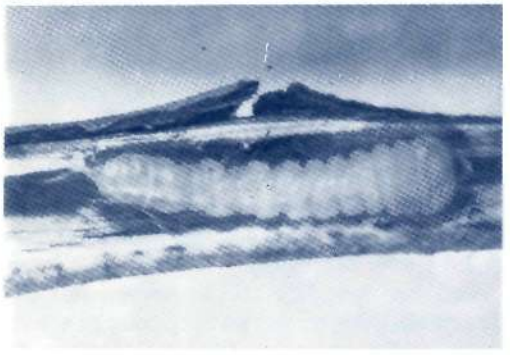

FIG. 1. Larva of *Nathrius brevipennis* (Mulsant)

N. brevipennis was described originally as *Leptidea brevipennis* Mulsant 1839, Coleoptera, Cerambycidae. Mulsant overlooked however that Billberg 1820 had established the same generic name *Leptidea* for a species of the family Pieridae (Lepidoptera). According to the rules of nomenclature, Mulsant could not use the above name owing to *Leptidea* Billberg (Paclt 1946). In addition, according to Linsey 1963, "this genus is based upon a single anomalus species which has been distributed by commerce to various parts of the world and renamed several times as a result". Thus, the genus has today the name *Nathrius* Brethes 1916. As synonyms of this insect have been given: *minuta* Motschulsky 1845, *manca* Leconte 1850, *rufipennis* Dufour 1851 and *Nathrius porteri* Brethes 1916 (= *brevipennis* Mulsant) (Villiers 1977). Its world distribution is of great interest. Common in southern Europe it was probably introduced into northern and central Europe, Great Britain and northern Africa. In America it is recorded in some countries as The United States, Chile and Argentina (Linsley 1963).

FIG. 2. Female *Nathrius brevipennis* (Mulsant)

N. brevipennis has not been reported in the lists of Coleoptera of Greece (Oertzen 1886,

Demelt 1967, 1970, 1982, Sama 1982). Palm (1965) does not record this species in his catalogue and Heyrovsky (1967) states that *N. brevipennis* is present in Yugoslavia (Dalmatia) but it was not found in Albania and Greece.

This species is polyphagous and attacks a great number of plants (Linsley 1963, Villiers 1978). In Europe the larvae are known to feed on dead stems, twigs and to injure basket willow, *Salix* spp. and wicker work (Prell 1927). When the infestation is continuing for several years, then the wood is almost reduced to powder (Duffy 1953). In Greece it is known for been only a twigborer in almond and walnut trees in the north-west part of the country. In general, the larvae of our samples were slender and white in colour (Fig. 1), the female adult length 4-4,5 mm with elytra short, reaching the half of the abdomen, brown in colour, testaceous to piceous, legs brownish, with dense punctuation at the head and pronotum and light one on the elytra (Fig. 2).

Acknowledgment

I wish to thank Dr. C.V. Demelt (Klagenfurt-Austria) who identified some samples of this species.

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KEY WORDS: *Nathrius brevipennis*, Almond tree, Walnut tree

Nathrius brevipennis (Mulsant 1839) (Col.: Cerambycidae) στην Ελλάδα

Λ.Α. ΣΑΝΤΑΣ

Εργαστήριο Γεωργ. Ζωολογίας και Εντομολογίας Ανωτάτη Γεωπονική Σχολή Αθηνών

ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Στην εντομολογική αυτή σημείωση αναφέρεται το Κολεόπτερο Cerambycidae *Nathrius brevipennis* (Mulsant) που βρέθηκε να προκαλεί ζημιές σε αμυγδαλιές στους Αυλιώτες της Κέρκυρας στα έτη 1975-1976. Το έντομο αυτό δημιουργούσε στοές στα κλαδιά της αμυγδαλιάς και έκανε ζημιές σε καχεκτικά δένδρα. Το 1977 βρέθηκε σε καρυδιές στα Ιωάννινα, το δε 1980 το επεσήμανα σε αμυγδαλιές στο Μέτσοβο.

Από όσα γνωρίζω το *N. brevipennis* δεν έχει αναφερθεί στους καταλόγους που αναφέρουν είδη της οικογένειας Cerambycidae για την Ελλάδα.