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SHORT COMMUNICATION

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Capnodis porosa (Klug, 1829) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) – new species for the beetle fauna of Croatia

Capnodis porosa (Klug, 1829) (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) – nova vrsta za favno hroščev Hrvaške

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Distribution records of jewel beetles, or metallic wood boring beetles (Coleoptera: Buprestidae), in Croatia are scarce and come from limited sources. Most have been given by Schlosser (1878) and Novak (1952, 1964, 1970), with a smaller number of records given by just a few other authors. This is surprising since jewel beetles are considered by some authors to be among the most beautiful beetles in the Balkans (Sakalian 2003) – thus attractive to beetle collectors. Additionally, most jewel beetles are xylophagous, attacking dying or dead trees. Therefore, they hold an important role in ecosystems, contributing to the decomposition of dead wood (Evans et al. 2007). In spite of this, there is no published recent focused research on Croatian jewel beetles, or even saproxylic communities in general.

Some jewel beetles can invade healthy or weakened trees (Evans et al. 2007), and as such are considered pests, particularly in forestry and agriculture. For instance, flat-headed borers, *Capnodis* spp., cause damage to plantations of stone fruit (*Prunus* spp., Rosaceae) or pistachio trees (*Pistacia* spp., Anacardiaceae) (Gindin et al. 2014). For Croatia, only a few papers mention the effects of *Capnodis* spp. in agriculture, specifically just for *Capnodis tenebrionis* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Rotim 2013, Šubić 2016) However, they do not give the precise distribution of this species. The Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera (Kubáň et al. 2006) lists only three species of this genus in Croatia: *C. tenebrionis*, *Capnodis cariosa* (Pallas, 1776) and *Capnodis tenebricosa* (Olivier, 1790).

During the last few years, the authors carried out a beetle fauna survey of Dubrovnik-Neretva County, including Srđ Hill near Dubrovnik (WGS84 coordinates: 42,650701° N, 18,110602° E, 401 m a.s.l.). Srđ was visited on two occasions, on 7.6.2017 and 2.7.2018. Visual examination of host plants was performed for *Capnodis* buprestids, which resulted in records for *C. cariosa*, *C. tenebrionis* and *C. tenebricosa*. Several specimens were identified as *Capnodis porosa* (Klug, 1829), a species which had not been previously recorded in Croatia (Fig. 1). Individuals of *C. porosa* were found on *Rhus coriaria* L. on both occasions, on the same bush patches. From several individuals observed, two and six were collected during the first and second visits, respectively. Identification of this species followed available keys by Théry (1936) and Tozlu & Özbek (2000).

The closest records of *C. porosa* are from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and Albania (Kubáň et al. 2006). Larval host plants in Europe are *Pistacia* spp. and *Rhus* spp. (Sakalian 2003), and almond (*Prunus amygdalus* L., Rosaceae) in Iran (Ghahari et al. 2015).

Further discoveries of this species in Croatia can be expected. Future research should focus on locations with known occurrences of both *Rhus* species present in Croatia, as well as other potential host plants, at least in the south Mediterranean part of the country (Jovančević 1964, 1966, Birač 1973, Milović 2002, Stevanović & Lakušić 2007, Nikolić 2015).

Figure 1. An adult *C. porosa* resting on the dry trunk of *Rhus coriaria* (photo: M. Zadravec).
Slika 1. Odrasel osebek *C. porosa* na suhem deblu *Rhus coriaria* (foto: M. Zadravec).

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