Saproxylic beetles visiting living sporocarps of *Fomitopsis pinicola* and *Fomes fomentarius*

Sigmund Hågvar

Hågvar, S. 1999. Saproxylic beetles visiting living sporocarps of *Fomitopsis pinicola* and *Fomes fomentarius*. Norw. J. Entomol. 46, 25–32.

A total of 61 beetle species from 16 families were observed sitting on living sporocarps of the common bracket fungi *Fomitopsis pinicola* and *Fomes fomentarius* (Polyporaceae). The highest number of species were attracted to *F. fomentarius,* and only 11 species were common to both fungal species. Most of the collected beetle species do not breed in the respective fungi, but develop in other saproxylic habitats. Beetles were continuously coming and leaving, and arrival around midnight (between 21 and 03 h) was observed in 34 species. Night activity was especially typical within Leiodidae, Latridiidae, Trogossitidae and the genus *Epuraea* within Nitidulidae. It is suggested that saproxylic beetles seek to living sporocarps either 1) for feeding, 2) that they follow the odour from living sporocarps in order to come close to dead wood, in which they are going to breed (kairomone effect), or 3) both. Most of the beetles could breed in the tree species on which the sporocarp was growing (spruce or birch). Since visiting beetles were often covered with fungal spores and thus could spread them by flight, the relationship between living bracket fungi and visiting saproxylic beetles may be symbiotic. *Bolitophagus reticulatus,* breeding in dead sporocarps of *F. fomentarius,* was found to visit living sporocarps of the same species to feed on the hymenium, especially during the night.

Key words: Saproxylic beetles, Coleoptera, sporocarps, Norway.

Sigmund Hågvar, Institute of Biology and Nature Conservation, P.O. Box 5014, Agricultural University, N-1432 Ås-NLH, Norway