

Rediscovery of *Osmoderma eremita* (Scopoli, 1763) (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae) in Norway

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Flåten, M. & Fjellberg, A. 2008. Rediscovery of *Osmoderma eremita* (Scopoli, 1763) (Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae) in Norway. *Norw. J. Entomol.* 55, 165–168.

Adults and larvae of the hermit beetle, *Osmoderma eremita* (Scopoli, 1763), are reported from Norway for the first time since late 1800. A population was discovered in hollow ash trees in Tønsberg in July 2008. The species was associated with its predator, the click beetle *Elater ferrugineus* Linnaeus, 1758.

Key words: *Osmoderma eremita*, *Elater ferrugineus*, Norway.

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INTRODUCTION

The main distribution area of *Osmoderma eremita* covers central Europe reaching north to southern parts of Sweden and Finland, Denmark, Poland and Latvia (Ranius et al. 2005). In Norway the species has not been recorded for more than a century. Siebke (1875) gives a record by Esmark from **BØ** Drammen while Strand (1960) refers to an old record from **AK** Asker made by Grüner before year 1900. The only preserved material in Norway is a specimen in Zoological Museum, Oslo, labelled “Ex. coll. Norway. Einar Fischer” (Ranius et al. 2005). Remnants of adults - probably very old - have been found several times from 1958 onwards in hollow oaks at the island Rauer near Fredrikstad (Hanssen 1999). In the latest edition of the Norwegian Red List (Kålås et al. 2006) *O. eremita* is considered extinct and listed as one of four Norwegian beetle species which are included in the 2006 Global IUCN Red List as vulnerable (VU).

REDISCOVERY

On 5 July 2008 the senior author discovered an adult female sitting on a stone in the old city

graveyard in Tønsberg, **VE** Tønsberg (Tønsberg Gamle Kirkegård, UTM 32v 580530 E, 6571057 N, Figure 1). A hollow ash tree with abundance of the characteristic larval faecal pellets were located within 50 m from the collecting site. The tree has a diameter of 73 cm at chest height. On 9 July the junior author discovered two more adults creeping on the outside of the same tree trunk. On both occasions the observations were made in early afternoon in warm, sunny weather (about 20° C). Further observations of adults were not made, not even on the very warmest days with temperatures around 30° C at the end of July. On 19 July the junior author examined an accumulated pile of mould and larval faecal pellets at foot of the ash tree and a full grown 6 cm long larva was discovered at about 15 cm depth, outside the tree trunk (Figures 2, 3). One small larva, about 3 cm long, was also seen. The adult female from 5 July is deposited at Zoological Museum, Oslo, while other specimens were left at the collecting site.

ASSOCIATED SPECIES

On 9 July 2008 two larvae (28 and 25 mm long) of *Elater ferrugineus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Elateridae) were found in the mould piled up at foot of the