Otiorhynchus armadillo (Rossi, 1792) (Coleoptera, Curculioidae), a weevil new to Norway

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The first record of the weevil *Otiorhynchus armadillo* (Rossi, 1792) (Coleoptera, Curculioidae) from Norway is given. The biology and geographical distribution is commented on.

Key words: *Otiorhynchus armadillo*, alien species, Coleoptera, Curculioidae, Norway.

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Introduction

Many *Otiorhynchus* species can cause serious damage to a lot of plants and reach large numbers in quite a short time, e.g. *O.sulcatus* (Fabricius, 1775) in strawberry fields and horticultural plants. The adults often feed on the foliage of different host plants making round cuts along the leaf edge (Figure 1), while the larvae feed on the roots. *Otiorhynchus* species are an economical threat to farmers and producers of plants who use lots of resources every year preventing the damage of weevils. Several pest species are expanding their prevalence and reports from the Netherlands and Denmark estimate *Otiorhynchus* sp. as an increasing problem as the trade of plants becomes more extensive. *O. armadillo* is 7–12mm long. It is dark with yellow shells on the elytra. For a detailed description of the species, see Barclay (2003).

Records

The first record in Norway was done close to a plant nursery at Kvakestad (AK, Ski EIS 28, UTM 32VN6623786 E603410), 12 August 2008. Several specimens were found feeding on leaves of birch (*Betula* sp.). On 3 July 2009 the species was recorded again at the same location, indicating that the species had managed to overwinter and establish.

Discussion

O. armadillo is known from 10 countries in Europe (Alonso-Zarazaga 2007), but it is probably more widespread due to trade of plants. From Sweden, it was recorded from a plant nursery in Stockholm in 1995 (Borisch 1997). The first specimen from Great Britain was recorded in 1998 near a store that sold imported plants in London. The most plausible explanation for its arrival in Britain is therefore through imported plants that was already infested with larvae and pupae at the time of delievery/import. Another specimen was taken in Edinbourgh in 2000 (Barcaly 2003). Like many other *Otiorhynchus* species, *O. armadillo* is polyphagous and seems to be associated with a lot of host plants among the popular horticultural plants. Barclay (2003) gives a detailed list of identified host plants in Great Britain and Heijerman & Hellingman (2008) reports damage by this species on several plants in the Netherlands (Table 1). The import of horticultural plants seems to be the most effective way for the weevils to reach new areas as many