

The first record of the weevil *Trichosirocalus thalhammeri* (Schultze, 1906) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Norway

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The weevil *Trichosirocalus thalhammeri* (Schultze, 1906) is recorded from Norway for the first time. Two specimens have been found in south-eastern Norway the past two years, Horten in 2011 and Hvaler in 2012. The ecology of the species and notes on its distribution in Northern Europe are briefly discussed. The resemblance with the species *T. troglodytes* (Fabricius, 1787) is also mentioned. *T. thalhammeri* is most likely confined to the plant species *Plantago maritima* (L.) in Norway, and should be searched for in suitable habitats in the Oslofjord region for further description of its distribution in Norway.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, *Trichosirocalus thalhammeri*, Norway.

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Introduction

The weevil *Trichosirocalus thalhammeri* (Schultze, 1906) (Figure 1) is recorded from Norway for the first time. The genus (formerly *Ceuthorrhynchidius* (Hansen 1965)) includes 17 Palearctic species feeding on a variety of host plants. *T. thalhammeri* is previously recorded from the western coast of Sweden in 1984 (Lundberg 1986) and from Denmark in 1972 (Hansen & Mahler 1985). Its distribution in Europe ranges from the Mediterranean to the southern Scandinavia, and show a possible northwards migration of the species in recent time. Its preferred host plants are *Plantago maritima* (L.) and *P. coronopus* (L.), where the larvae feeds on rootstocks or lower stems and pupate in the soil, preferable on coastal saltmarshes (Morris 2008).

Material

One female was found in Norway, VE, Horten: Reverumpa, 32V E582532 N6589752, 6 June

2011, disturbed shoreline with different kinds of shrubs, grass and herbs One male was found in Norway, Ø, Hvaler: Tohella, 32V E606704 N6549886, 26 June 2012, coastal saltmarsh. Both specimens were found in the vegetation along the shoreline, and the host plant *P. maritima* was present in the areas.

Discussion

Two other species in the genus, *T. troglodytes* (Fabricius, 1787) and *T. barnevillei* (Grenier, 1866) are previously recorded from Norway, the prior with a wider distribution than the latter. *T. thalhammeri* is easily confused with *T. troglodytes*, and the most reliable characters used to separate the two species are listed in Table 1. The host plants are also different for the two species, *T. troglodytes* is mostly found on *Plantago lanceolata* (L.), while *T. thalhammeri* is found on *P. maritima*. Despite of a wide range of the host plant along the coast of Norway, *T. thalhammeri* has not previously been recorded in