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## *Epuraea (Haptoncus) ocularis* FAIRMAIRE, 1849 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae): the first record in Poland

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**Abstract:** *Epuraea (Haptoncus) ocularis* FAIRMAIRE, 1849, an invasive species of sap beetle, was found on rotting apples in several localities in Upper Silesia. The species is native to south-eastern Asia and was first recorded in Europe in 1997.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, *Epuraea*, invasive species, Poland.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Epuraea* ERICHSON, 1843 belongs to the subfamily Epuraeinae within the family Nitidulidae. At present, it contains some 300 known species from all over the world; around 150 of them occur in the Palearctic and 27 in Poland.

Originally distributed in south and south-eastern Asia and the western Pacific region, *Epuraea (Haptoncus) ocularis* FAIRMAIRE, 1849 is now regarded as a cosmopolitan species (JELÍNEK & LASON 2018). In Europe, it was officially recorded for the first time in Spain (Canary Islands) in 1997 (JELÍNEK 1997). During the next few years it was also found in Austria, France, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and Italy; this information was summarized in CPC (JELÍNEK & AUDISIO 2007). Thereafter, it was recorded in Albania (DENUX & ZAGATTI 2010), Czech Republic (VÁVRA *et al.* 2016), Malta (MIFSUD & AUDISIO 2008), Russia (TSINKEVICH & SOLODOVNIKOV 2014, BIBIN 2017) and Hungary (MERKL & SZALÓKI 2020).

*E. ocularis* was discovered in a few localities in Upper Silesia (S Poland). Apart from the single specimen from Ligota Dolna that was sifted from rotting grain, all the others were captured in rotting apples lying at the foot of apple trees (Fig. 2), deliberately deployed in bait traps on the ground (Fig. 3), or hung from branches at various distances from gardens.

#### Upper Silesia:

Bytom-Rozbark [CA57], 23.10.2023 – 1 ex., 31.10.2023 – 2 exx., leg. J. Grzywocz;

Bytom-Szombierki [CA47], 23.10.2023 – 2 exx., leg. J. Grzywocz;

Ligota Dolna [BA99], 14.10.2023, 1 ex., leg. J. Grzywocz;

Ruda Śląska-Kochłowice [CA56], 14.07.2022 – 1 ex.; 17-21.08.2023 – 8 exx., leg. Cz. Greń;

Ruda Śląska-Wirek [CA47], 21.09.2023 – 1 ex., 28.09.2023 – 2 exx., 23.10.2023 – 40 exx., 6.11.2023 – 5 exx., leg. J. Grzywocz;

Widów [CA18], 11.10.2023 – 9 exx., leg. R. Dobosz and J. Grzywocz; 12.10.2023 – 23 exx., leg. R. Dobosz.

The voucher specimens are deposited in the collections of the authors and the Upper Silesian Museum, Bytom (USMB).

## DISCUSSION

In recent years, several nitidulid beetle species regarded as invasive have been recorded in Poland. One of them is *Glischrochilus grandis* TOURNIER, 1872, first discovered in the Białowieża Forest and the Bieszczady Mts. in 2015 (LASON & HOLLY 2015), and later at a few localities in the Podlasie region (MOKRZYCKI *et al.* 2022, LASON 2023) and in the Eastern Beskid Mts. (TWARDY 2018). As this is a species colonizing woodland biotopes, its spread is necessarily slow. The situation with *Stelidota geminata* (SAY, 1825) is different, occurring as it does in both woodland and synanthropic biotopes. First found in Poland in 2018 (KRÓLIK 2019), it has become an abundant and common species in the south of the country (GRZYWOCZ & GREŃ 2022, also unpubl. data). Another newly discovered beetle is *Caplothorax lugubris* (MURRAY, 1864). Though considered a pest of maize crops and various fruit, it was found in Poland in a woodland biotope (LASON & RUTA 2023).

*E. ocularis* is thus one more invasive species in the Polish fauna. In most localities in Europe, and also at the new ones in Poland, it has been found above all together with *S. geminata*. The larvae of *E. ocularis* develop in rotting fruit, and also in decomposing herbaceous plants and the sporocarps of fungi. Pupation takes place in the soil. The adults inhabit the same substrates, but also visit flowers and are attracted by artificial sources of light (TSINKEVICH & SOLODOVNIKOV 2014).

*Eपुरaea ocularis* is a very characteristically coloured species (Fig. 1), even the discoloured or teneral specimens can be easily distinguished from all our *Eपुरaea* according to the acutely pointed temples behind eyes.

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Fig. 1. *Epuraea ocularis* – specimen from Ruda Śląska-Kochłowice (photo A. Lasoń).



Fig. 2. The locality *Epuraea ocularis* in the old orchard in Widów (photo R. Dobosz).



Fig. 3. Fruit trap in Ruda Śląska-Wirek (photo J. Grzywocz).

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