The Genus *Cortodera* Mulsant, 1863 (Cerambycidae: Coleoptera) in Turkey

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Data are presented on the occurrence of 15 species of the genus *Cortodera* Mulsant, 1863 in Turkey. The faunistic data add to our knowledge on their distribution in Turkey. The occurrence of *Cortodera cirsii* Holzschuh, 1975, *C. holosericea* (Fabricius, 1801), *C. pseudomophlus* Reitter, 1889, and *C. alpina xanthoptera* Pic, 1898 is determined in this work, thereby adding four taxa to the known taxa in Turkey. One of them, *C. holosericea*, is reported for the first time in the Turkish fauna, and a short description is given. *C. cirsii* and *C. omophloides* Holzschuh, 1974 are endemic to Turkey. *C. umbripennis* Reitter, 1890 (in N. Lodos, 1998) is determined as a synonym of *C. alpina* (Menetries, 1832).

KEY WORDS: *Cortodera holosericea*, new record; fauna; *Cortodera*; Cerambycidae; Coleoptera; Turkey.

INTRODUCTION

Beetles of the family Cerambycidae (longhorn beetles) are of economic importance. Larvae of longhorn beetles develop in plant tissues. The ecological role of longhorn beetles is to decompose plant material such as tissues of woody plans (under conditions ranging from healthy to moribund to dead and decomposing) and herbaceous plants (both living and dead) (24,26) and humus. Death and decomposition are vital to the health of any ecosystem, for they enable the recycling of nutrients which would otherwise be permanently locked up in dead plant material.

The beetles of the genus *Cortodera* feed generally in roots of broadleaved trees (e.g. *Quercus*, *Prunus* and *Picea*) and roots of herbaceous plants (e.g. *Ranunculus*, *Centaurea*). The longhorn beetle fauna of Turkey has been studied intensively since the last century and a number of papers presenting chiefly faunistic data have appeared (1-22,24-38). Using literature data, Lodos (26) estimated that approximately 584 cerambycid species (ten *Cortodera* species) might occur in Turkey.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material for this study was collected by the author during three years (1991, 1997 and 2001) from different localities in Turkey, mainly Central Anatolia in the Mediterranean region, and deposited in Gazi University. Almost all material was obtained by beating broadleaved trees or found on the flowers of herbaceous plants. Some of the information was obtained from the literature cited herein.


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The data are given according to the following outline: Ankara(1), Kızılcabamam(2), Güvem(3), 1200 m(4), 14.05.1997(5), where:

(1) Administrative district (Province)
(2) Town
(3) Village
(4) Altitude
(5) Collecting date (day/month/year).

The cited data are complemented by the names of trees or herbaceous plants from which the species was beaten or swept.

The data on Body length, Life cycle, Adults present in, Host plant, Material examined, General distribution, and Distribution in Turkey under the heading for each species are given in the text. The data which were not obtained by the author, are not presented in this study. The main or important (but not all) synonyms are also given. General distribution data on each species in Turkey have been given by Althoff and Danilevsky (4), Bense (5), Danilevsky (13) and Hoskovec and Rejzek (23). The distribution in Turkey is presented by a list of provinces and the author's name, or only by listing the authors assigned to them.

RESULTS

Fifteen species and 19 taxa of species group (with subspecies) of the genus *Cortodera* were determined to occur in Turkey during this study.

*Cortodera alpina* ssp. *alpina* (Menetries, 1832)

Adults present in: May.
General distribution: Caucasus, Balkan Peninsula.
Distribution in Turkey: Refs. 13, 26; Van (3); Ankara, Adana (14).

*Cortodera alpina* ssp. *umbripennis* Reitter, 1890
= *armeniaca* Pic, 1898

distribution in Turkey: Elazığ (22); Ref. 13.

*Cortodera alpina* ssp. *xanthoptera* Ganglbauer

Host plant: Umbelliferae
Distribution in Turkey: Ref. 6.

*Cortodera cirsii* Holzschuh, 1975

Life cycle: 1 year [?].
Adults present in: May–June.
Host plant: *Cirsium* sp. (Asteraceae), *Ferula* sp.
Material examined: Adana: Hasanbeyli, Nurdağı, 1100–1250 m, 03.06.2001.
General distribution: Endemic to Turkey.
Distribution in Turkey: Osmaniye (21); Adana (2,30).