

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Adistemia watsoni*: a stored product fungus beetle
new record for Greece****S.CH. PAPADOPOULOU^{1*} AND C.TH. BUCHELOS²**¹ *Technological Educational Institute of Thessaloniki, School of Agricultural
Technology, Laboratory of Entomology, P. O. Box 141, 57400 Sindos, Greece*² *Agricultural Entomologist, Emer. Professor Agricultural University of Athens, Greece***ABSTRACT**

During an inspection survey concerning stored product insects in the mainland Greece the stored product fungus beetle *Adistemia watsoni* Wollaston (Coleoptera: Lathridiidae) was recorded to feed upon conidia of *Penicillium* developing on stored plums and corn. Information on its morphology and distribution is briefly given.

The insect *Adistemia watsoni* Wollaston (1871) (Coleoptera: Lathridiidae) was found in several dwellings in the Greek mainland, during an inspection survey concerning stored product insects in Greece. Adults of *A. watsoni* were found to feed upon conidia of *Penicillium* (ascomycetous fungi) developing on stored fruits and seeds (plums and corn) in damp locations.

The beetle *A. watsoni*: *Lathridius* (*Cartodere*) *bicostata* Reiter (1877), *Cartodere godarti* Belon (1879), belongs to the suborder Polyphaga, superfamily Cucujoidea, family Lathridiidae and subfamily Lathridiinae. The families Lathridiidae and Cryptophagidae include species considered associated with moisture in warehouses called also “fungus” or “plaster” beetles. Lathridiidae are also called “minute brown scavenger beetles” as they feed on dead animals or plants, decaying materials or animal waste (Borror et al. 1981).

A. watsoni has a very characteristic morphology (Fig. 1): the body is small in size

(1.3–1.5mm), elongate – oval and depressed. Upper surfaces of body, glabrous. The general body colour is light yellowish brown. Head and pronotum are very slender. The head is well produced in front of the eyes. The labrum is strongly broadened and widely enclosing sides of clypeus. Compound eyes are small, moderately convex, each consisting of about six facets and (to distinguish between similar genera *Dienerella* and *Acalyptoischion*), distant from rear margin of head. Antennae are rather short, 10-segmented, antennal club 3-segmented. There are no longitudinal ridges on pronotum. Elytra are coarsely punctured (Hinton 1945, Ebeling 1975, Mallis 2004).

The species is considered cosmopolitan. According to “Fauna Europaea” it is mainly found in Afro-tropical and Nearctic regions. In Europe it is present in the British Isles, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Latvia, Madeira, Sicily, Denmark (Hansen and Pedersen 1991) and Norway (Skartveit 1999). Accord-

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ing to Buchelos (1985) and “Fauna Europaea”, *A. watsoni* was not found in Greece before.

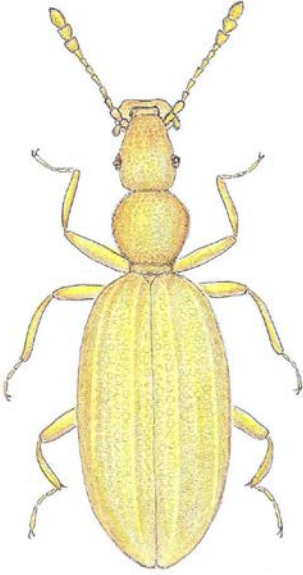


FIG.1. *Adistemia watsoni* adult
(by C. Th. Buchelos)

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Πρώτη καταγραφή στην Ελλάδα του εντόμου αποθηκών *Adistemia watsoni*

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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Στο πλαίσιο αναζήτησης νέων εντομολογικών εχθρών στην Ελλάδα που προσβάλλουν αποθηκευμένα προϊόντα, βρέθηκε το έντομο *Adistemia watsoni* Wollaston (1871) (Coleoptera: Lathridiidae) να τρέφεται με μύκητες που αναπτύσσονται σε αποξηραμένα δαμάσκηνα και σπόρους καλαμποκιού. Πρόκειται για έντομο μικρού μεγέθους (1,3 έως 1,5 χιλ.) με χρωματισμό πολύ ανοιχτό καστανό και με χαρακτηριστικά μικρή κεφαλή και πρόνωτο. Το είδος *A. watsoni* δεν έχει αναφερθεί μέχρι σήμερα στη χώρα μας. Στην Ευρώπη συναντάται στην Βρετανία, Τσεχία, Γαλλία, Φιλανδία, Γερμανία, Φιλανδία, Ελβετία, Ισπανία, Ιταλία, Μαδέρα, Σικελία, Λετονία, Δανία και Νορβηγία.