A New Host Plant for
Scobicia chevrieri (Villa)
(Coleoptera: Bostrychidae) 

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Bostrychidae is primarily a family of wood-
boring beetles, distributed mainly in the tropics
and subtropics. Many species are serious pests
of growing trees and felled timber. One species,
Rhysopertha dominica (F.), is a grain borer and
the most frequently met among beetles infesting
stored wheat in Greece (Buchelos 1981). Two
other bostrychids, Dinoderus minutus (F.) and
Dinoderus brevis Horn, have been recently
found in Greece infesting bamboo articles
imported from Hong-Kong and the Philippines
respectively (Buchelos in press).

Wooden parts (branches of 3 to 18 cm in di-
diameter) of Brachychiton acerifolium Mull. and
Brachychiton diversifolium G. Don. (Sterculia-
ceae) trees, widely used as ornamentals in alleys
and parks in Attika, Greece, that have been cut
and stored for one at least year in the open,
were found heavily infested by bostrychid beet-
les and their larvae; the exterior of these bran-
ches was densely perforated by tunnel openings
about 1.5 mm in diameter, while the interior
presented an almost complete deterioration due
to numerous galleries caused by the insects.

Due to the fact that the living Brachychiton
trees of the region examined were found infesta-
tion free, one is lead to the conclusion that the
infestation occurred after felling; furthermore,
the infestation on B. acerifolium seemed more
severe than on B. diversifolium wooden parts.

The identification of the adults, based on tax-
onomic keys of Lesne 1900, Reitter 1911, Por-
ta 1929, Portevin 1931 and Fisher 1950, lead to
Scobicia chevrieri (Villa) and was confirmed by
the identification group of the Bayerische Staat-
samlung, Munich. The species belongs to the
subfamily Bostrychinae, tribe Xyloperthini, ge-
nus Scobicia Lesne; it has also been found un-
der the synonyms: Apathe chevrieri Villa, Apathe
capitata Dejean, Xylopertha chevrieri J. Duval,
Xylopertha foveicollis Allard, Xylopertha pustu-
lata Kiesenwetter and Scobicia pustulata Ja-
cobson.

The adults found in the region of Attika, near
Athens, are 3.3-4.5 mm long and 1.2 to 1.5 wide.
Original drawings of the adult’s body and anten-
ta are given in Figs 1, 2 and 3. These figures
may very well describe both sexes of the insect
due to the fact that the only external differences
between male and female are located in the
adult’s abdomen (Fisher 1950).

S. chevrieri is reported being distributed in
many regions of Italy from the Alpes and Tyrol

FIG. 1. Scobicia chevrieri adult: Dorsal aspect.

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to Sardinia and Sicily (Porta 1929, Reitter 1911), across the French Mediterranean coast and Corsica (Portevin 1931), Spain (Malaga, Seville, Cordoba), Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Caucasus, Crimea (Lenske 1901) and Cyprus (Georgiou 1977). Lenske (1901) and Kailidis (1991) mention the only record from Greece without any information on host and locality. The insect has not been reported to be observed in Greece ever since! In the relevant literature, S. chevriieri is recorded attacking mainly dead branches of the following plants: fig (Ficus sp.), mulberry (Morus sp.), green oak (Quercus ilex L.), English oak (Quercus robur L.), evergreen oak (Quercus cocifera L.), laurel (Laurus nobilis L.), mastic-tree (Pistacia lentiscus L.), birch (Betula sp.), fox grape (Vitis labrusca L.), pomegranate (Punica granatum), chestnut (Castanea sp.) and gem-tree (Eucalyptus spp).

Brachychititon spp. is recorded here for the first time as host of the insect.

References

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KEY WORDS: Scobicia chevriieri, Bostrichidae, wood borers, Brachychititon spp., new host plant.
Νέο Φυτό - Ξενιστής για το Ξυλοφάγο Έντομο Scobia chevrieri (Villa) (Coleoptera: Bostrychidae)

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ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ

Κορμοί και στελέχη δένδρων των είδών Brachychiton acerifolium Muell και B. diversifolium G. Don. (Sterculiaceae) που είχαν κοπεί και παραμένειε στο ύπαιθρο για ένα περίπου έτος, βρέθηκαν ισχυρά προσβεβλημένα από το κολεόπτερο Scobia chevrieri που ανήκει στην οικογένεια Bostrychidae.

Δίδεται η θέση του εντόμου στη Συστηματική και η περιγραφή του ακμαίου συνδευόμενη από πρωτότυπες απεικονίσεις του. Αναφέρεται επίσης η γεωγραφική κατανομή και οι ξενιστές του.

Εκτός από τον Lesne (1901), χωρίς πληροφορίες για τον ξενιστή ή την τοποθεσία, δεν υπάρχει άλλη αναφορά στο είδος αυτό για την Ελλάδα. Τα Brachychiton spp. πάντως, αναφέρονται στην εργασία αυτή, για πρώτη φορά σαν ξενιστές του S. chevrieri.