

## A New Host Plant for *Scobicia chevrieri* (Villa) (Coleoptera: Bostrychidae)<sup>1</sup>

C.TH. BUCHELOS

Laboratory of Agricultural Zoology and  
Entomology, Agricultural University of Athens,  
11855, Athens, Greece

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, *Rhyssopertha 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 diameter) of *Brachychiton acerifolium* Mull. and *Brachychiton diversifolium* G. Don. (Sterculiaceae) 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 beetles and their larvae; the exterior of these branches 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 infestation 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 taxonomic 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 Staatssammlung, Munich. The species belongs to the subfamily Bostrychinae, tribe Xyloperthini, genus *Scobicia* Lesne; it has also been found under the synonyms: *Apate chevrieri* Villa, *Apate capilata* Dejean, *Xylopertha chevrieri* J. Duval, *Xylopertha foveicollis* Allard, *Xylopertha pustulata* Kiesenwetter and *Scobicia pustulata* Jacobson.

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 antenna 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

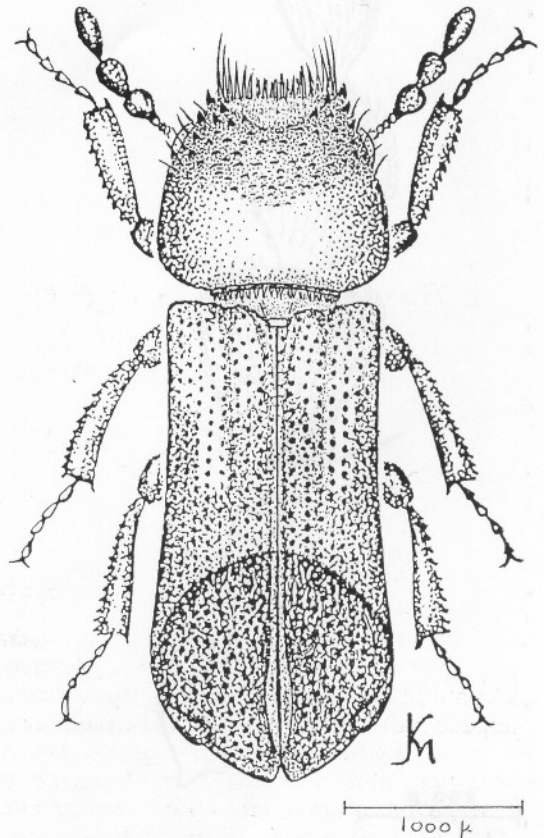


FIG. 1. *Scobicia chevrieri* adult: Dorsal aspect.

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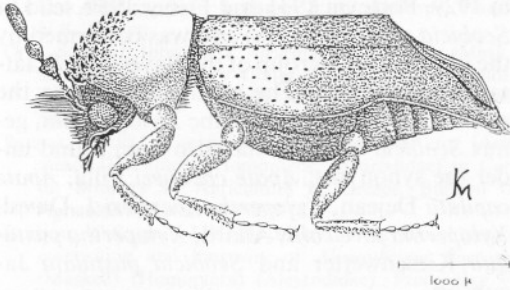


FIG. 2. *Scobicia chevrieri* adult: Lateral aspect.



FIG. 3. *Scobicia chevrieri* adult: antenna.

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, Libanon, Syria, Causasus, Crimea (Lesne 1901) and Cyprus (Georgiou 1977). Lesne (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. chevrieri* 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 coccifera* 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.).

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

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KEY WORDS: *Scobicia chevrieri*, Bostrychidae, wood borers, *Brachychiton* spp., new host plant.

**Νέο Φυτό - Ξενιστής για  
το Ξυλοφάγο Έντομο  
*Scobicia chevrieri* (Villa)  
(Coleoptera: Bostrychidae)**

**Κ.Θ. ΜΠΟΥΧΕΛΟΣ**

*Εργαστήριο Γεωργικής Ζωολογίας  
και Εντομολογίας Γεωργικό Πανεπιστήμιο  
Αθηνών, Βοτανικός*

**ΠΕΡΙΛΗΨΗ**

Κορμοί και στελέχη δένδρων των ειδών *Brachychiton acerifolium* Muell και *B. diversifolium*

G. Don. (Sterculiaceae) που είχαν κοπεί και παραμένει στο ύπαιθρο για ένα περίπου έτος, βρέθηκαν ισχυρά προσβεβλημένα από το κολεόπτερο *Scobicia chevrieri* που ανήκει στην οικογένεια Bostrychidae.

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

Εκτός από του 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*.