

## ***Axinopalpis gracilis* (Krynicky, 1832) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) new species in fauna of Latvia**

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The article presents the information on the discovery of *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Krynicky, 1832) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in the southeast of Latvia, in the territory of the nature protected area Ilgas. The new species for the fauna of Latvia has been collected with the help of an entomological net on the edge of a forest with lime trees (*Tilia cordata*) and thorn plum trees (*Prunus spinosa*). After the discovery of this species there are now 120 cerambycid species known in the fauna of Latvia.

Key words: *Axinopalpis gracilis*, Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, fauna, Latvia.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

*Axinopalpis gracilis* (Krynicky, 1832) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) is a small, 6,5 – 12 mm big maroon cerambycid. It is distributed in Europe, Asia Minor, Caucasus, and northern Iran. In Southern Europe, this species is found very locally in the southeast regions of Italy, it is rather widespread in the area from Balkans eastward to Crimea. As to the Central Europe, it has been discovered in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and Hungary (Sama 2002). In the Baltic region, this species up to now has been known in Lithuania, where it was found in two places in the area of Palanga and Panevezys (Pileckis, Monsevičius 1997).

Females of the species differ from males by the length of antennae and size of the last segment of palpi (Sama 2002).

The species inhabit mostly the thermophilous habitats. In general, this species is polyphagous. It is found on different deciduous trees and bushes. It has most often been noticed on *Prunus Juglans*, *Quercus*, *Rosa*, *Castanea*, *Acer*, *Ceratonia*, *Pistacia Paliurus*, *Cidonia* etc. (Sama 2002). The Lithuanian entomologists point that the species is to be found in deciduous forests, orchards and parks from May to June (Pileckis, Monsevičius 1997).

The present article provides the information on the first finding of *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn.) in Latvia. With the discovery of this species there

are now 120 cerambycid species known in the fauna of Latvia.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen obtained using an entomological net is kept in the Beetle Collection of the Institute of Systematic Biology of Daugavpils University (DUBC). The data of its label are the following: „LATVIA: Daugavpils distr., Silene Nature Park, Ilgas, VIII. 2002. A.Barševskis leg.”

The material of the collection has been examined in laboratory using the Zeiss stereomicroscope Zeiss Stereo Lumar V12 and photographed using the Axiocam digital camera.

The map of the finding of the species (see Figure 1) has been produced using the software Arc Gis 9.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

While carrying out the research into the beetle fauna in Silene Nature Park and the nature-

protected area Ilgas (they are situated in the southeast of Latvia, in the surroundings of the Latvian – Byelorussian border), not far from the study and research centre of Daugavpils University “Ilgas”, using the entomological net one specimen of *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn.) (see Figure 2) was found in the grass under lime trees (*Tilia cordata*) and thorn plum trees (*Prunus spinosa*). As the beetle has been collected with the entomological net, we cannot precisely state on the tree of which type the beetle developed. The surroundings of Ilgas is one of the places in Latvia with the most continental climate, this is also the place where the highest temperatures in Latvia are observed. There are many xerophyte biotopes, where there are many old and withering bushes of thorn plums (*Prunus spinosa*). It is possible that the species is connected exactly with these bushes.

*Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn) bear resemblance with *Obrium cantharinum* (Linnaeus, 1767) (see Figure 3), which is more widely distributed in Latvia. *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn) has a more slender, completely russet body and elytra, which has almost parallel sides and longer setae. But *Obrium cantharinum* (L.) has the elytra that are

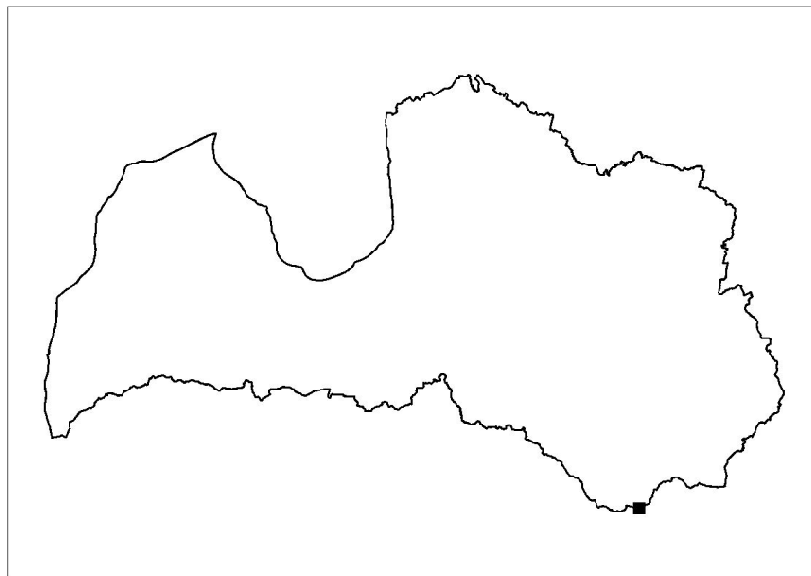


Fig. 1. The map of the finding of *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn) in Latvia



Fig. 2. Imago of *Axinopalpis gracilis* (Kryn) (Latvia: Ilgas)

broadened in the hinder part, its sides are not parallel, its body and legs are dark, the upper part has shorter setae.

To find out the situation of this species' population in Latvia it is necessary to continue the research in Ilgas and other likely biotopes in the south of Latvia.

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Fig. 3. Imago of *Obrium cantharinum* (L.) (Latvia: Dunava)

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