

***Cidnopus platiai* MERTLIK, 1996 (Coleoptera, Elateridae) - species new to the Polish fauna**

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ABSTRACT. *Cidnopus platiai* Mertlik, 1996 has been collected in Pińczów, Nida Valley. It is the first record of this species from Poland. *Cidnopus ruzenae* (LAIBNER, 1977) should be excluded from the Polish fauna.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Elateridae, *Cidnopus platiai*, Poland, new records.

INTRODUCTION

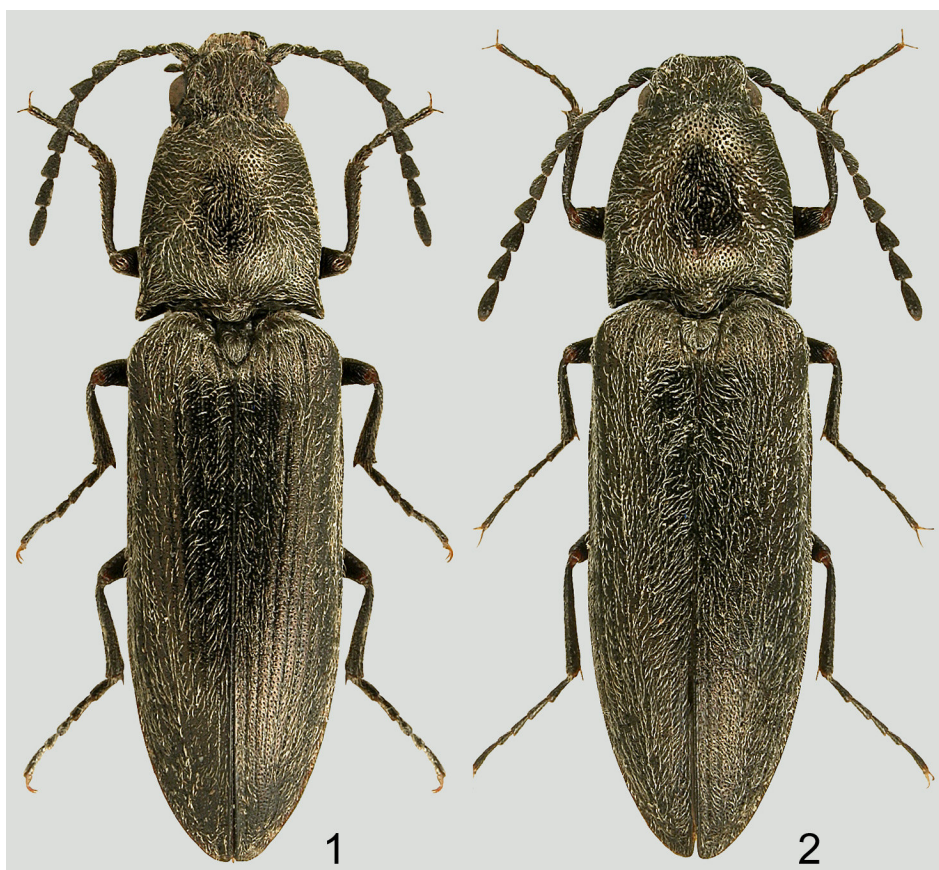
The genus *Cidnopus* THOMSON, 1859 is a holarctic genus with single species occurring in Australia. In Palearctic region approximately 30 species occur, three of them have been recorded from Poland. Although this genus is well known and some species are common in forests and meadows of European lowlands several new species were described recently from Europe (LAIBNER 1977, PLATIA & GUDENZI 1985, MERTLIK 1996).

Only one of these recently described species was recorded from Poland - *Cidnopus ruzenae* (LAIBNER, 1977). Revision of the material of the genus *Cidnopus* used in the *Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae*, a web page with photos of Polish Coleoptera (BOROWIEC 2008), showed that record of *Cidnopus ruzenae* was based on misidentified specimens, however, another new species to the Polish fauna - *Cidnopus platiai* MERTLIK, 1996 – was discovered.

Cidnopus platiai MERTLIK, 1996

A single specimen of this species was collected in the Nida Valley, vicinity of Pińczów, Skowronno Nat. Res., 10-15 V 1991, leg. L. BOROWIEC. The specimen was caught in a shrub vegetation on a slope of a gypsum hill. The locality is well known nature reserve protecting one of the most interesting xerothermic habitats in Poland.

Cidnopus platiai is hitherto known only from Slovakia and Hungary but it is probably more widespread but not distinguished from related *Cidnopus aeruginosus* (OLIVIER, 1790). Both species are very similar at first glance, especially females. Diagnostic characters and a good key to all species from Central Europe is given by TARNAWSKI (2000). Male of *C. platiai* at first glance is well distinguished from male of *C. aeruginosus* by a slimmer scutellum and longer hind angles of pronotum with their ends directed laterally (Fig. 1, 2). In the same locality of Skowronno, also *Cidnopus aeruginosus* was collected from the part of hill close to pine forest.



Figs 1-2. Male specimens: 1 – *Cidnopus platiai* MERTLIK, 2 – *C. aeruginosus* (OLIVIER).

***Cidnopus pilosus* (LESKE, 1785)**

Cidnopus ruzenae (LAIBNER, 1977): BOROWIEC 1997: 53 (misidentification).

BOROWIEC (1997) recorded this species basing on two specimens from Opoka Duża near Annopol (Wyżyna Lubelska highland). Josef MERTLIK (personal comm.) suggested that specimen from Opoka figured in *Iconographia Coleopterorum Poloniae* probably belongs to *Cidnopus pilosus* (LESKE, 1785). Re-examination of both specimens confirmed his suggestion. They are untypical exemplars of *Cidnopus pilosus* with completely red epipleura and margins of elytra. In consequence, *Cidnopus ruzenae* should be excluded from Polish fauna although closely related localities in Slovakia and Hungary suggest probability of its occurrence in Poland.

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