

First record of *Reesa vespulae* (MILLIRON, 1939) (Coleoptera, Dermestidae), an introduced species of dermestid beetle in Poland

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ABSTRACT. Authors give the first record of introduced dermestid beetle species *Reesa vespulae* (MILL.) in Poznań in the chambers of University of Life Sciences, and summarize data about its range in the world.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Reesa vespulae*, first record, introduction, Poland.

INTRODUCTION

Beetle fauna of family Dermestidae is rather good studied, due to the Catalogus Faunae Poloniae (BURAKOWSKI et al. 1986, BURAKOWSKI et al. 2000) and a monograph paper of MROCKOWSKI (1975). Later there were also published a few papers with faunistic data about Dermestidae of Poland (KANIA 1991, BUNALSKI 1997, KADEJ 2005, RUTA et al. 2005, RUTA et al. 2006, MIŁKOWSKI & RUTA 2008). Recently have been recorded three new introduced species from Poland (RUTA et al. 2004). Authors of this paper also have summarized all knowledge about introduced species of skin beetles of Poland. The Dermestid beetle family is also known from its great ability of many species to introduce and occurrence in new areas. That is why there is no surprise in collecting another species of a beetle from this family in Poland. Below we presenting a new data about first record of *Reesa vespulae* (MILL.) in Poland.

All specimens have been collected by first author. Specimens are deposited in both authors collections.

Locality in Poland

Wielkopolska-Kujawy Lowland (W. Poland): Poznań (UTM: XU20): 10 VIII 2006, 1 ex.; 26 IX 2006, 2 exx.; 8 V 2007, 5 exx; 24 V 2007, 5 exx; 18 VI 2007, 3 exx.; 11 VII 2007, 6 ex.; 28 IV 2008, 2 exx., 5 V 2008, 3 exx.; IV-V 2008, 18 exx.; 28 V 2008, 2 exx.; VI 2008, 12 exx.; VI-VII 2008, 5 exx.; rooms of Department of Entomology, University of Life Sciences, Dąbrowskiego 159 and 28 IX 2006, 3 exx., cult. ex larva.

Remarks

Reesa vespulae (MILL.) is the only representative of genus *Reesa* BEAL, 1967. This genus is placed in tribe Megatomini in subfamily Megatominae (HÁVA 2003). This species is known only from females specimens, so it is consider parthogenetic (MILLIRON 1939). First specimens of this species have been observed in the year 2006 in chambers of the Department of Entomology in Poznań. In the year 2007 this species has been also observed in chambers of the Department of Environmental Protection and Management Department University of Life Sciences. By the last three years it was regularly observed and collected, mainly on window sill, chambers walls and rarely also in unprotected entomological collections frequently with co-occurrence species *Attagenus smirnovi* ZHANTIEV, 1973.

Habitus of this species is very characteristic (Fig. 1) hardly to confuse with other species of Dermestidae occur in Poland.



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Reesa vespulae* (MILL.) (Phot. by M. PRZEWOŹNY).

Characteristic features of this species are:

- antennae club with 4 segments (this feature occur in polish Dermestidae only in females of the genus *Trogoderma* DEJEAN, 1821 also);
- body covered with strong black setae (absence of scales like setae forming a color bands pattern different this genus from *Trogoderma* DEJEAN, 1821);
- very characteristic coloration of the body, forming two light red band in front half of elytra.

Key to determine of larval stages is given in BEAL (1956).

This is the first confirmed and documented introduce of this species in Poland

DISCUSSION

This species was described as *Perimegatoma vesuplae* MILLIRON, 1939 from wasp nests from St. Paul, Minnesota state (USA) locality. In the year 1967 BEAL transferred this species to a new genus *Reesa*. A short period after it has been recorded from outside United States territory, this species was found in Canada (SPENCER 1948, SPENCER 1954, SPENCER 1956). In his paper BEAL (op. cit.) given back attention on possible danger to natural history collection caused by this species.

In Europe *Reesa vespulae* (MILL.) have been recorded for the first time on the beginning of seventies (ZHANTIEV 1973), but probably this species was introduced in Europe earlier, on the beginning of sixties. It is provided by prof. MROCZKOWSKI notes with data of specimens from Denmark (collection date 1959) and Norway (collection date 1965), which are deposited in the Museum and Institute of Zoology PAS in Warsaw (KADEJ private information). In recently decades this species has been recorded in many European countries, it was also introduced in Australia, New Zeland, South America and North of Africa (HÁVA 2003).

„Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera, vol. 4” Háva (2007) published following distribution of *Reesa vespulae* (Mill.): Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, Holland, Norway, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland (in Europe), Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunis (in Africa), Afghanistan, Japan, Asiatic part of Russia and also Nearctic and Australian region. This book also has listed Poland, but this species hasn't been recorded from Poland until now. This species has been reported furthermore from Latvia in the year 2004 (TELNOV 2008), Island (ÓLAFSSON 1979), Ireland (O'CONNOR 2003) and Italy (ALDINI 2003), which hasn't been included in HÁVA publication (op. cit.). It is also known from Chile (HÁVA 2003).

Reesa vespulae (MILL.) is recorded from only this one locality in Poznań in Poland, so it is hard to evaluate is this species remains in Poland or will be spreading eventually. It was mentioned also it could be a possible danger to natural history collections, but due to its small range in Poland, its importance is rather small now.

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