SHORT NOTES

Cucujus haematodes - a New Species in the Fauna of Latvia

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Cucujus haematodes ERICHSON, 1845 is a Palaearctic species with some subspecies in the Japan and Taiwan (*C. haematodes opacus*), in the Caucasus (*C. haematodes caucasicus*) and nominal subspecies (*C. haematodes haematodes*) in the rest of distribution area (Horak, Chobot 2009). A record of species in Latvia was expected, as species is known in the neighbouring countries – Estonia, Lithuania and Belarus.

An individual of adult *C. haematodes* (Figure 1) was found on decayed birch (*Betula pendula*) trunk (Figure 2) in the raised bog Aklais purvs (Aizkrauke district) in 03.06.2010, coordinates – latitude 56,4989860 longitude 25,1418728. The habitat represents typical pine bog forest with sparse birches. An individual was photographed and released as it was initially considered as particularly protected species *C. cinnaberinus*. After the analysis of the photographs it was definitely identified as *C. haematodes*. The birch trunk was destroyed by polyporous fungi *Piptoporus betulinum*. This fungus is reported as potential host of the cucujid species (Krasutskii 2006).

In Europe the species is reported to higher attitudes mostly on dead coniferous tress (Horák et al. 2009), but in the rest of distribution area *C. haematodes* occurs predominantly in lower altitudes and it prefers broadleaved trees. The species also shares the habitat with *Boros schneideri*, *Pytho kolwensis*, *Cardiophorus nigerrimus* and *Dendrophagus crenatus* (Horák et al. 2010). A new record in Latvia does not approve these statements as it is found in the completely different habitat – raised bog. *C. haematodes* is extremely rare and should be included in the list of protected species in Latvia.

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Figure 1. Observed individual of *Cucujus haematodes haematodes*.



Figure 2. Habitat of Cucujus haematodes haematodes in Aklais purvs raised bog, Latvia.