

## ***Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (Fabricius, 1801) (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae) in Gibraltar and a question about its status in the Iberian Peninsula**

Keith N.A. Alexander<sup>1</sup>, Keith Bensusan<sup>2</sup>, Charlie Perez<sup>2</sup> & Colin Johnson<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>59 Sweetbrier Lane, Heavitree, Exeter EX1 3AQ, Reino Unido — keith.alexander@waitrose.com

<sup>2</sup>Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society, PO Box 843, Gibraltar.

<sup>3</sup>17 Peaknaze Close, Glossop, Derbyshire, SK13 6UN, Reino Unido.

**Abstract:** A third Iberian locality is reported for the hairy fungus beetle *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae), from Gibraltar. The new record is from Mediterranean maquis, a new situation for this species most typically associated with deciduous broad-leaved forest.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Mycetophagidae, *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis*, saproxylic, new record, Gibraltar, Iberia.

### ***Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (Fabricius, 1801) (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae) en Gibraltar y consideración sobre su estatus en la Península Ibérica**

**Resumen:** Se cita una tercera localidad ibérica para *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae), de Gibraltar. La cita procede de matorral mediterráneo, un hábitat nuevo para una especie que se asocia típicamente con bosque caducifolio.

**Palabras clave:** Coleoptera, Mycetophagidae, *Pseudotriphyllus suturalis*, saproxílico, nueva cita, Gibraltar, Iberia.

*Pseudotriphyllus suturalis* (Fabricius, 1801) is a small, hairy fungus beetle (Mycetophagidae) that develops in annual bracket fungi fruiting from exposed dead wood of trees. It has been given 'Near Threatened' status in the European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles (Nieto & Alexander, 2010). The species appears to be best known in Britain and to be rare or extinct in most other countries within its European range. It is noted as being absent from the Iberian Peninsula (www.iucnredlist.org) but this is clearly incorrect as there are two old records and it has recently been found on Gibraltar: beetles collected by CP and KB from leaf litter have mostly been passed to CJ for determination and *P. suturalis* has been found at several sites within the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, the details of which are as follows:

1 ex. near Ince's Farm, 14.ii.2008; 2 ex. 07.iii.2008; 2 ex. Engineer Road, 12.iii.2008; 3 ex. Douglas' Path, 20.vi.2008; 3 ex. St. Michael's Road, 24.v.2009; all from leaf litter; 2 ex. The Mount, in dead wood, 12.xi.2008.

The species has been reared in Britain from the bracket fungi *Laetiporus sulphureus* and *Piptoporus quercinus*, and the adult has also been found on *Fistulina hepatica*, *Polyporus squamosus* and other species, always on old specimens of broad-leaved trees. The adult is long-lived and must find refugia at times when bracket fungi are not available. In Britain there are a few records of adults found in deadwood but all records are otherwise only from bracket fungi. The discovery of the adult beetles in leaf litter is therefore of interest. All of the localities in question except for The Mount consist of tall Mediterranean maquis, with *Olea europaea* as the dominant species and lower numbers of *Osyris lanceolata*, *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Rhamnus alaternus* and *Pistacia terebinthus*. *Olea* shrubs are variable in size and can sometimes be tall enough to form trees. However, the woody vegetation is fairly young on the Rock, as most of the woody vegetation was removed by the garrison for fuel and due to defence considerations during the 18th C and was then kept low by goats and the garrison until the late 19th C (Perez & Bensusan, 2005). The Mount, in contrast, is a small patch of woodland at

the back of a Garden within a property that formerly belonged to the Admiralty. It is unlikely to have been cleared during the 18th C and the main trees present are mature *Celtis australis* and *Olea europaea* (Perez & Bensusan, 2005). The beetle records at this site come from small, rotting twigs that were being cut open whilst looking for *Temnothorax* ant nests. The interior of both the woodland at the Mount and the maquis is shaded and humid in places and there are bracket fungi on older trunks of larger *Olea*, as well as on stumps. The fungi of Gibraltar have not been studied, so the species of bracket fungi have not been identified.

It is unclear which is the earliest record from the Iberian Peninsula but Horion (1961) notes it from 'Faro' (surely referring to the locality in the Algarve, Portugal) and Fernández (2012) reports that the Barcelona Zoological Museum collection includes specimens collected in La Rioja by F. Español in 1954. The record from Gibraltar is at a sufficient distance from these to be of interest and may indicate that it is more widespread within the Peninsula. The authors would be interested to learn of any other records.

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