

*EPURAEA DEUBELI* REITTER, 1898, A CONFIRMED  
SAPROXYLIC SAP BEETLE FOR THE ITALIAN FAUNA  
(Coleoptera, Nitidulidae)

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INTRODUCTION

The sap beetle *Epuraea deubeli* Reitter, 1898 (fig. 1) is a rare European sap-beetle, known from several countries of Northern, Central, E/SE Europe, and NW Asia (from Denmark, Germany and Austria to the Western Siberia: Audisio 1993; Jelínek & Audisio 2007). A single female specimen (CAR: = P. Audisio collection, Zoological Museum, Sapienza Rome University) of this species was found by an Austrian entomologist in 1956 at the Austrian/Italian border, not far from the small town of Dobbiaco (= Toblach; Trentino-Alto Adige/Sud Tyrol, Bolzano province), in a not precisely identified locality between Toblach and Sillian (Austria). This uncertain Italian record was first reported on the CK-MAP database by Audisio & De Biase (2005), but no further findings allowed to confirm the actual presence of this species in Italy. A series of relatively recent (2005/2006) ecological investigations on saproxylic beetle communities in the area of Mount Baldo (Verona Province), carried out by a research team of the CNBF National Centre for Forestry Biodiversity, Verona, brought to the unexpected discovery of this species also in Pre-Alps.

Two specimens (one male and one female) of *Epuraea deubeli* were, in fact, collected using pitfall traps and Malaise traps baited with 70%

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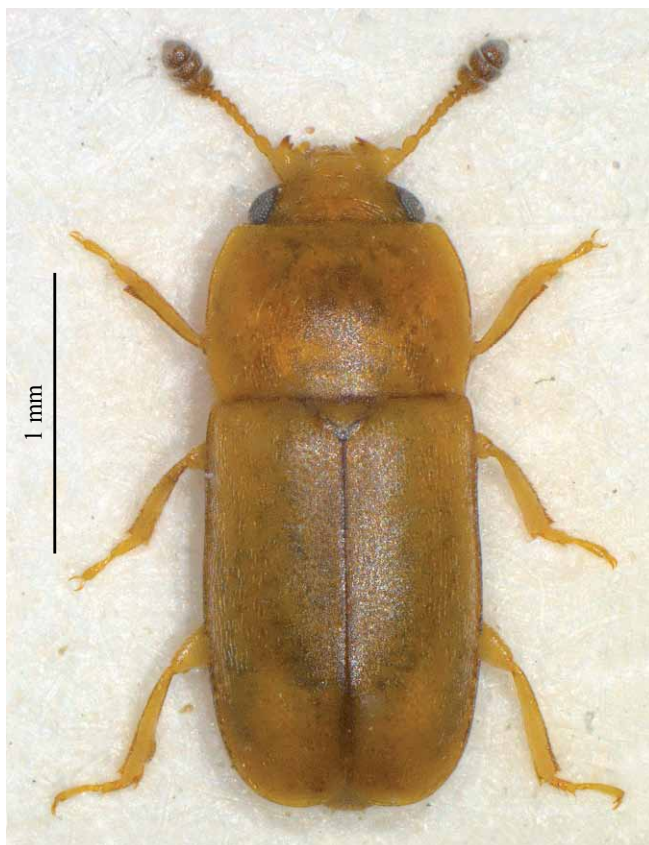


Fig. 1 – *Epuraea deubeli*: female from Malcesine, Verona Province, Italy (photo: G.M. Carpaneto & L. Quattrocchi).

ethanol. The traps were placed in a mixed mountain forest dominated by conifers (cf. AA.VV. 2001; Spada 2008).

The present note is then aimed to report these new interesting records, adding, in fact, a new species to the sap beetles Italian fauna.

### ***Epuraea deubeli* Reitter, 1898**

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Italy, Veneto, Verona province, Malcesine municipality Mount Baldo, nr. Selva Pezzi mountain shelter, 1547 m a.s.l., UTM 32 T 644311 5068609 (45° .756 N, 14°10'.855 E), 18.VIII-1.IX.2005, A. Xilo, F. Saccomanni & G. Bolego leg. (Malaise interception trap), 1 male (CAR); ibidem, 1534 m a.s.l., UTM 32 T 644298

5068531 (45°.755N, 10°.855E), 20.VI-25.VII.2006, L. Spada leg. (Pitfall trap), 1 female (CAR).

DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA AND TRAP DEVICE. “Selva Pezzi”, is a fragment (about 967 ha) of mixed coniferous forest, dominated by fir (*Abies alba*), spruce (*Picea abies*) and larch (*Larix decidua*), with a sporadic presence of beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), and surrounded by pastures and rocky habitats. It is located on the eastern slope of Mount Baldo, Veneto region, Verona province, above Malcesine, at an altitude between 1000 and 2200 m above sea level. Sampling activity was focused in the years 2005-2006, from April to August; Malaise interception trap were active in the period 9.VI-9.XI.2005, pitfall traps were active in the period 12.X-24.XI.2006.

The Malaise trap model used for this research was based on the aerial interception of flying beetles by semi-transparent sheet of fine mesh. Pitfall traps were baited with an oversaturated solution of vinegar and table salt.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. The species, as reported by Horion (1960), Audisio (1993) and more recently by Jelínek & Audisio (2007), was previously known from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine, European Russia and Western Siberia. The last updated version of the *Fauna Europaea* data base (Audisio & Jelínek 2005-2013) reports the regional presence of this species in Italy, basing on the above cited uncertain record published by Audisio & De Biase (2005), and on the above reported unpublished records from Mount Baldo (Spada 2008).

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#### RIASSUNTO

*Eपुरaea deubeli* Reitter, 1898, un nitidulide saproxilico confermato per la fauna italiana (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae).

Nel corso di una serie di ricerche ecologiche sulle comunità di coleotteri saproxilici nell'area forestale del Monte Baldo (Veneto, provincia di Verona), è stata confermata la presenza in Italia di *Eपुरaea deubeli* Reitter, 1898 (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae), rara specie Sibirico-Europea sinora nota dubitativamente solo di una stazione di confine tra l'Alto Adige e l'Austria.

## ABSTRACT

During ecological investigations on saproxylic beetle communities at Monte Baldo (Veneto, Verona province), two specimens of *Epuraea deubeli* Reitter, 1898 (Coleoptera, Nitidulidae) were recently collected. It is the first known sure record of this species in Italy (previously known from Northern, Eastern, and Central Europe, southwards to Austria, and from Western Siberia).

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