

New data on the distribution of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) in Poland

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Abstract: The study presents new information on the distribution of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) in Poland. As a result of field observations conducted between 2004 and 2025, the presence of *E. septentrionis* was recorded in five UTM grid squares in the Sandomierz Lowland, two UTM grid squares each in the Western Sudety Mts. and the Western Beskid Mts., and one UTM grid square each in the Eastern Beskid Mts., Lower Silesia, the Pomeranian Lake District, and the Kraków–Wieluń Upland.

Key Words: longhorned beetles, saproxylic beetles, biodiversity, faunistics

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Euracmaeops* Danilevsky, 2014 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) is represented in the Palearctic region by four species: *Euracmaeops angusticollis* (F. Gebler, 1833), *E. marginatus* (Fabricius, 1781), *E. septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866), and *E. smaragdulus* (Fabricius, 1793) (Danilevsky 2020).

In Poland, the occurrence of the first three taxa has been confirmed, whereas the presence of *E. smaragdulus* has not yet been verified (Gutowski 2004, Plewa 2010, Danilevsky 2020, Kurzawa 2020).

Euracmaeops septentrionis has a broad distribution range and is known from 23 European and 14 Asian countries (Danilevsky 2020). In Poland, it is considered a rarely encountered beetle, largely due to the secretive behaviour of adult specimens (Wiśniowski & Baran 2016).

In recent years, knowledge about the distribution of *E. septentrionis* in Poland has improved significantly, with many new sites discovered in lowland areas. This finding is noteworthy, as numerous earlier publications classified the species as a boreal-montane chorological element in Europe (Schedl 1972, Nüssler 1976, Burakowski et al. 1990, Chrul et al. 2013, Wiśniowski & Baran 2016).

In Poland, *Euracmaeops septentrionis* has so far been recorded in 18 KFP biogeographical regions (Burakowski et al. 1990) and 66 UTM grid squares (Trella 1925, Trella 1938, Burakowski et al. 1990, Gutowski 1995, Bidas 1998, Gutowski et al. 1999, Welnicki 2001, Bidas 2002, Miłkowski 2004, Górski 2004, Rutkiewicz 2007, Michalcewicz 2010, Plewa 2010, Karpiński et al. 2011, Niedojad 2012, Chrul et al. 2013, Karpiński & Szczepański 2014, Karpiński et al. 2014, Górski & Tatur-Dytkowski 2015, Mazur et al. 2016, Wiśniowski & Baran 2016, Buchholz et al. 2021, Szafr-

niec et al. 2021, Szafranec et al. 2024, Marczak et al. 2023, Gutowski et al. 2024a, b, Biodiversity Map 2024, Polish Entomological Forum 2025).

Euracmaeops septentrionis, like *E. marginatus*, is a pyrophilous species, as evidenced by observations of adults attracted to charred tree trunks in post-fire forest areas in Sweden and Finland (Wikars 2001, Süda et al. 2009, Plewa 2010). However, unlike its close relative, the occurrence of *E. septentrionis* is not as strongly associated with post-fire areas. Adults are found in both coniferous and mixed forests as well as in clear-cut areas (Pradella et al. 2010).

The presence of this species in a given area is strictly dependent on the availability of its host plant, which in Europe is Norway spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) H.Karst) (Karpiński & Szczepański 2014). In other climatic regions, larvae of this beetle can also develop on various coniferous tree species, such as fir (*Abies* Mill.), pine (*Pinus* L.), and larch (*Larix* Mill.) (Plewa 2010).

Euracmaeops septentrionis is listed in the European Red List of Saproxyllic Beetles with the category Least Concern (LC) (Cálix et al. 2018, Gutowski et al. 2024b). It has no economic significance (Pradella et al. 2010). *Euracmaeops septentrionis* is the largest species within the genus, with a body length ranging from 7 to 13 mm (Woźniak 2007). Adults emerge in early spring and can be observed until August (Burakowski et al. 1990, Wiśniowski & Baran 2016). They are particularly active during sunny and warm weather (Tamutis & Alekseev 2020). These beetles feed on the pollen of spruce flowers, while their presence on understory vegetation is rarely observed (Plewa 2010). The biology of *E. septentrionis* is well understood and has been thoroughly described by Plewa (2010), among others. The complete life cycle lasts two years (Sama 2002), and females primarily select dead trees with attached bark for egg-laying.

Larvae can develop under the bark of tree trunks weakened by fungi or cambioxylophagous insects, as well as in branches (in older stands) and stumps left after logging. Depending on where the larvae complete their feeding phase, pupation may occur (after overwintering) in pupal cells formed under the bark (most commonly near the tree base and root flares), in the soil, or in the litter layer beneath moss growing on the root collars of trees (Burakowski et al. 1990, Plewa 2010). According to Tamutis & Alekseev (2020), pupation under the bark of the host plant is very rare. This is also confirmed by Burakowski et al. (1990), who stated that larvae primarily pupate in the soil and only occasionally under the bark of an infested tree. The larvae of *E. septentrionis* have three pairs of legs and are among the most mobile within the family Cerambycidae (Karpiński 2017, Gutowski et al. 2024b).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Field observations of longhorned beetles were conducted between 2004 and 2025 r. across seven KFP biogeographical regions (Burakowski et al. 1990): the Pomeranian Lake District, the Western Sudety Mts., Lower Silesia, the Kraków-Wieluń Upland, the Sandomierz Lowland, the Western Beskid Mts., and the Eastern Beskid Mts. Adult specimens were collected using sweep netting, by targeted searching or attraction to artificial light. The specimens are preserved in the authors' collections. To create the distribution map of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* in Poland, the MapaUTM ver. 6 software (Gierlasiński 2025) was used. Data on site locations (regions according to the KFP classification, names of forest districts and forest ranges, and UTM grid squares) were obtained from the following online sources: Biodiversity Map Database (2024), Forest Data Bank (2025), and Lepidoptera Mundi (Jonko 2025). Photographic documentation was taken using a Nikon D-750 camera with an AF-S Micro Nikkor 105 mm lens and is held by the authors of the present study.

RESULTS

As a result of field observations, the presence of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* was recorded in 13 new UTM grid squares located within 7 KFP biogeographical regions (Burakowski *et al.* 1990) (Fig. 1):

- **Kraków-Wieluń Upland**, [UTM: CA96], Chrzanów Forest District, Myślachowice Forest Range: 03 June 2018 – 1 ex (♂), attracted to light (Mix 250 W), on sandy grassland in a clearing within a pine forest, under a high-voltage power line, leg. R. Celadyn.
- **Western Beskid Mts.**, [UTM: DV87], Piwniczna Forest District, Żegiestów Forest Range, Compartment 62: 07 June 2022 – 1 ex (♀), collected using a sweep net from understory vegetation and shrubs at the forest-meadow edge, leg. M.J. Łuszczak.
- **Western Beskid Mts.**, [UTM: DV88], Nawojowa Forest District, Barnowiec Forest Range, Compartment 366: 25 May 2024 – 3 exx (2♂, 1♀); 28 May 2024 – 1 ex (♂), on a pile of freshly cut spruce logs at a timber depot, leg. M.J. Łuszczak.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: EA59], Nowa Dęba Forest District, Berówka Forest Range, Compartment 123: 30 April 2021 – 1 ex (♂), emerged from a pupa found under moss on the root flare of a dead spruce, emerged on 06 May 2021, leg. Ł. Zadorożny; Compartment 121 [UTM: EA59]: 05 May 2021 – 2 exx (♂), emerged from pupae found under the bark of a standing dead spruce with brown needles, emerged on 07 May 2021, leg. & cult. M.J. Łuszczak.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: EA59], Nowa Dęba Forest District, Świerczyny Forest Range, Compartment 25: 05 June 2014 – 1 ex (♂), on a pile of firewood (birch, pine, and spruce) at a timber depot, leg. M.J. Łuszczak.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: EA65], Głogów Forest District, Bór Forest Range, Compartment 188: 02 May 2019 – 8 exx (5♂, 3♀), found in pupal cells under moss on spruce root flares, leg. T. Olbrycht.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: EA96], Leżajsk Forest District, Brzózka Forest Range, Compartment 280: 11 July 2004 – 1 ex (♀), observed in flight over a broken spruce, leg. T. Olbrycht.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: FA26], Natura 2000 site “Łasy Sieniawskie”, Sieniawa Forest District, Witoldówka Forest Range: 02 May 2018 – 1 ex (♀), in flight at a spruce timber depot, leg. Ł. Zadorożny; Compartment 63 [UTM: FA26]: 29 May 2022 – 1 ex (♂), on a spruce log at a timber depot, leg. T. Olbrycht; Compartment 46 [UTM: FA26]: 29 May 2023 – 1 ex (♀), on a spruce trunk, leg. T. Olbrycht; 25 June 2023 – 2 exx (♀), on a spruce trunk at a timber depot, leg. T. Olbrycht & Ł. Zadorożny; Chrapy Forest Range, Compartment 128d [UTM: FA26]: 03 May 2024 – 1 ex (♂), on a spruce log at a timber depot, leg. Ł. Zadorożny.
- **Sandomierz Lowland**, [UTM: FA36], Natura 2000 site “Łasy Sieniawskie”, Oleszyce Forest District, Miłków Forest Range, Compartment 276: 24 June 2022 – 1 ex (♀), dead, found in a spider web on a fence post of a forest plantation, leg. Ł. Zadorożny.
- **Eastern Beskid Mts.**, [UTM: EA82], Strzyżów Forest District, Kąkolówka Forest Range, Compartment 94a: 11 June 2020 – 1 ex (♀), on a fir log at a timber depot near a forest road, leg. Ł. Zadorożny.
- **Western Sudety Mts.**, [UTM: WS63], Śnieżka Forest District, Karpniki Forest Range: 10 May 2009 – 5 exx (3♂, 2♀); 12 June 2013 – 3 exx (2♂, 1♀); 08 June 2014 – 2 exx (♂); 06 June 2015 – 9 exx (5♂, 4♀) (swarming); 02 June 2017 – 1 ex (♀), on spruce logs at a timber depot, leg. Bożena & Jarosław Frunze.
- **Western Sudety Mts.**, [UTM: WS65], Jawor Forest District, Muchów Forest Range: 13 June 2010 – 8 exx (4♂, 4♀); 22 May 2022 – 2 exx (♂), on spruce logs at a timber depot, leg. Bożena & Jarosław Frunze.

- **Lower Silesia**, [UTM: WS88], Legnica Forest District, Kochlice Forest Range: 01 May 2016 – 4 exx (3♂, 1♀); 01 May 2023 – 2 exx (♂), on spruce logs at a timber depot, leg. Bożena & Jarosław Frunze.
- **Pomeranian Lake District**, [UTM: WU58], Bierzwnik Forest District, Łasko Forest Range: 27 May 2012 – 1 ex (♀), on spruce logs at a timber depot, leg. Bożena & Jarosław Frunze.

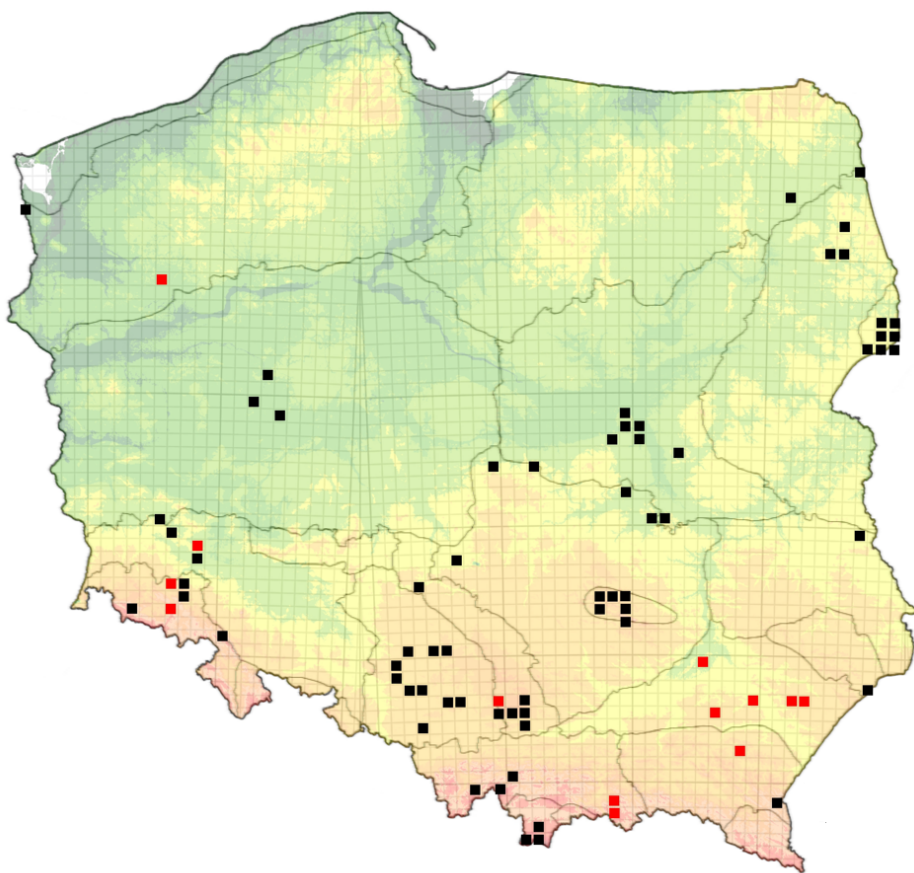


Figure 1. Distribution of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) in Poland; black squares – literature data, data from Biodiversity Map and Polish Entomological Forum; red square – new records.

DISCUSSION

The observations conducted complement the current state of knowledge on the distribution of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) in Poland. To date, this species has been recorded from 18 KFP biogeographical regions (Burakowski et al. 1990) and 66 UTM grid squares: Pomeranian Lake District [VV53], Masurian Lake District [FE14], Podlasie [FE40, FE50, FE52, FE66], Białowieża Primeval Forest [FD73, FD83, FD84, FD85, FD93, FD94, FD95], Wielkopolska–Kujawy Lowland [WT50, XT29, XT48, XU31], Mazovian Lowland [DC86, DC97, DC98, EC06,

EC07, EC10, EC20, EC35], Małopolska Upland [CB67, CC94, DC24, DC92], Lubelska Upland [FB79], Lower Silesia [WS69, WS87], Western Sudety Mts. [WS33, WS74, WS75, XS01], Upper Silesia [CA18, CA19, CA27, CA34, CA37, CA56, CA66, CB20, CB40, CB50], Kraków-Wieluń Upland [CA95, CB35, DA05, DA14, DA15, DA16], Świętokrzyskie Mts. [DB73, DB74, DB84, DB92, DB93, DB94], Roztocze [FA87], Eastern Beskid Mts. [FV18], Western Beskid Mts. [CV79, CV99, DA00], Nowy Targ Basin [DV26], Tatra Mts. [DV15, DV25] (Trella 1925, Trella 1938, Burakowski *et al.* 1990, Gutowski 1995, Bidas 1998, 2002, Gutowski *et al.* 1999, Wełnicki 2001, Górski 2004, Miłkowski 2004, Rutkiewicz 2007, Michalcewicz 2010, Plewa 2010, Karpiński *et al.* 2011, 2014, Niedojad 2012, Chrul *et al.* 2013, Karpiński & Szczepański 2014, Górski & Tatur-Dytkowski 2015, Mazur *et al.* 2016, Wiśniowski & Baran 2016, Buchholz *et al.* 2021, Szafraniec *et al.* 2021, Szafraniec *et al.* 2024, Marczak *et al.* 2023, Gutowski *et al.* 2024a, b, Biodiversity Map 2024; Polish Entomological Forum 2025). A substantial proportion of the records originated from mountainous areas and north-eastern Poland (Burakowski *et al.* 1990, Plewa 2010, Wiśniowski & Baran 2016).

Of particular note is the concentration of newly recorded localities of *E. septentrionis* in the Sandomierz Lowland [EA59, EA65, EA96, FA26, FA36], as well as a locality in the Eastern Beskid Mts. [EA82], from which the species had previously been known only from historical observations by Trella dating to the first half of the 20th century (Trella 1925, 1938). New records from the Western Beskid Mts. [DV87, DV88] are of similar importance, as they connect previously scattered records from the Carpathians (Plewa 2010). Records of *E. septentrionis* from the Western Sudety Mts. [WS63, WS65] and from Lower Silesia [WS88] corroborate observations by various authors who have indicated a regular, albeit local, occurrence of the species in this region. A substantial proportion of these observations were made in the vicinity of spruce timber depots (Bidas 1998, 2002, Plewa 2010). New data from the Pomeranian Lake District [WU58] and the Kraków–Wieluń Upland [CA96] fit into a broader trend of the gradual detection of the species in lowland and upland areas, a pattern previously suggested in the literature but still insufficiently documented (Gutowski 1995, Plewa 2010).

The obtained results confirm that the distribution of *E. septentrionis* in Poland is strongly associated with the presence of Norway spruce *Picea abies* (L.) H. Karst. Plewa (2010) clearly indicated that classifying this species as strictly boreal–montane is an oversimplification resulting from insufficient research intensity in forest stands located in lowland areas.

The vast majority of new records of adult specimens originate from forest timber depots with freshly harvested spruce wood, which is consistent with literature data indicating that *E. septentrionis* readily exploits breeding material created by human forestry activities (Burakowski *et al.* 1990, Plewa 2010, Karpiński & Szczepański 2014). It should be emphasized that the presence of adults at such sites does not necessarily reflect the true population size in the surrounding environment, but may instead result from increased detectability of the taxon. *E. septentrionis* belongs to a group of cryptic species that most frequently inhabit the upper parts of trees (Wiśniowski & Baran 2016).

Observations of pupae and larvae in the moss layer covering the root collars of spruce trees (Figs 2, 3) are particularly important, as they confirm the key role of the basal trunk zone as a pupation site for *E. septentrionis*. This mode of development was described in detail by Plewa (2010), who reported that larvae often leave the wood prior to pupation and select alternative microhabitats such as soil, litter, or thick moss layers, whereas pupation directly beneath the bark of the trunk occurs somewhat less frequently.



Figure 2. Root collar with a moss layer – an example of a larval pupation site of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866).

The data presented in this study confirm that *E. septentrionis* is more widely distributed in Poland than previously suggested, and that its apparent rarity is largely the result of its specific biology and the low detectability of adults. Further research should focus on the inspection of spruce root collar zones, as well as on systematic surveys of timber depots located in lowland and upland regions. Searches for new localities of the species will be continued, with particular emphasis on well-preserved forest stands containing spruce.



Figure 3. Pupa of *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) located beneath a moss layer on a root collar.

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STRESZCZENIE

Nowe dane o rozmieszczeniu *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) w Polsce

W pracy przedstawiono nowe dane dotyczące rozmieszczenia *Euracmaeops septentrionis* (C.G. Thomson, 1866) w Polsce. Gatunek stwierdzono w 13 nowych kwadratach siatki UTM, zlokalizowanych w obrębie siedmiu krain zoogeograficznych według Katalogu Fauny Polski (KFP); dla Kotliny Sandomierskiej jest to pierwsze stwierdzenie tego gatunku. Większość obserwacji uzyskano metodą „na upatrzonego”, polegającą na przeglądzie drewna świerkowego zgromadzonego na leśnych składnicach. Postacie dorosłe obserwowano zazwyczaj poje-

dynczo lub w niewielkiej liczbie osobników. W kilku przypadkach stwierdzono obecność larw, poczwarek oraz świeżo wyklutych imagines w kolebkach poczwarkowych zlokalizowanych pod warstwą mchu na nabiegach korzeniowych świerka, co potwierdza istotne znaczenie strefy szyi korzeniowej w rozwoju tego gatunku.

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