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SILVANUS MUTICUS SHARP, 1899: AN AMERICAN SILVANID FOUND OUT-OF-DOORS IN TWO GREEK ISLANDS (Coleoptera Cucujoidea Silvanidae)

**Riassunto.** Silvanus muticus Sharp, 1899: un silvanide americano catturato all’aperto in due isole della Grecia (Coleoptera Cucujoidea Silvanidae).

**Summary.** Out-of-doors records of the American Silvanus muticus Sharp, 1899, from the Greek islands of Ios (Cyclades) and Crete are reported. S. muticus and the closely related European Silvanus bidentatus (Fabricius, 1792) are compared and illustrated. An updated checklist of the species of Silvanus Latreille, 1804 and closely related genera (Cathartosilvanus Grouvelle, 1912 and Parasilvanus Grouvelle, 1912), which have been intercepted at European harbours or timber-yards, is given.

_Silvanus muticus_ Sharp, 1899 is a Nearctic and Neotropical species, comparatively rare in America, where it ranges from Guatemala to Canada. It is usually found beneath bark of several trees (Juniperus, Pinus, Acer, Quercus, Castanea), and at light (HALSTEAD, 1973).

In Europe, _S. muticus_ was intercepted several times in Italy, beneath bark of trunks imported from America into the harbour of Venice (Ratti in ANGELINI et al., 1995), between 1965 and 1973 (in part examined by D.G.H. Halstead). Further European records are unknown to me.

Dr. Lorenzo Zanella, during a cruise in the Aegean Sea in 1988, collected two specimens of _S. muticus_ in the Greek islands of Crete and of Ios, respectively. Dr. Zanella kindly informed me that the beetles were positively not found beneath bark, and most likely were collected in flight.

The updated European records of _S. muticus_ (specimens kept in the collections of the Natural History Museum, Venice) are:


_Silvanus muticus_ Sharp, 1899 (fig. 1) is closely related to the Palaearctic _Silvanus bidentatus_ (Fabricius, 1792) (fig. 2), and it is often misidentified with the latter species in American collections.
Fig. 1. *Silvanus muticus* Sharp, 1899, from Greece, Ios Isl. (length: 3.0 mm). Drawing by G. D'Este.
Fig. 2. *Silvanus bidentatus* (Fabricius, 1792), from Italy, Piemonte, Novara, Passo della Colma (length: 3.4 mm). Drawing by G. D’Este.
It may be distinguished from *bidentatus* mainly as follows: temples narrower, anterior angles of pronotum gradually (and not abruptly) developed, foveae of thorax shallower, male metafemoral tooth (if present) less prominent (see also Halstead, 1973, for full description).

Several exotic species of *Silvanus* Latreille, 1804 and closely related genera (*Cathartosilvanus* Grouvelle, 1912; *Parasilvanus* Grouvelle, 1912) were intercepted at European harbours or exotic timber-yards (mostly on imported timber, rarely on stored products) in recent years, namely:

*Silvanus castaneus* MacLeay, 1873, Oriental and Australian – Britain (Halstead, 1973).
*Silvanus inarmatus* Wollaston, 1867, Afrotropical – Italy (Ratti, 1972; Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995); Britain (Halstead, 1973).
*Silvanus lateritius* (Broun, 1880), Australian and imported elsewhere – Britain (Halstead, 1973); Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus lewisi* Reitter, 1876, Paleotropical and Australian – Britain (Halstead, 1973); Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus mediocris* Grouvelle, 1889, Afrotropical – Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus muticus* Sharp, 1899, Nearctic to Guatemala – Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995); Greece, out-of-doors (present paper).
*Silvanus proximus* Grouvelle, 1904, Afrotropical (introduced into Neotropics) - Britain (Halstead, 1973); Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus recticollis* Reitter, 1876, Paleotropical – Italy (Sardinia), out-of-doors (Fancell, 1986).
*Silvanus inermis* (Leconte, 1854), Nearctic and Neotropical – Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus musculus* (Grouvelle, 1878), Nearctic and Neotropical – Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Silvanus vulgaris* (Grouvelle, 1878), Neotropical to Mexico – Britain (Halstead, 1973).
*Parasilvanus fairmairei* (Grouvelle, 1883), Afrotropical – Italy (Ratti, 1972; Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995); Britain (Halstead, 1973).
*Parasilvanus ocellatus* (Grouvelle, 1889), Afrotropical – Britain (Halstead, 1973); Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).
*Parasilvanus pulcher* (Grouvelle, 1905), Afrotropical – Italy (Ratti in Angelini et al., 1995).

*S. muticus* is the second exotic species of *Silvanus* found out-of-doors in Europe in recent years: two specimens of the Paleotropical *Silvanus recticollis* Reitter, 1876 were, in fact, captured in 1985 in Sardinia (Macchiareddu near Cagliari), under bark-scales of living *Eucalyptus* sp. trees (Fancell, 1986).
Both species are potentially able to become breeding species in the Mediterranean countries.

References


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