

## **Bionomics and Host Plant of *Herpes porcellus* Lacordaire, 1863 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A study on the bionomics of *Herpes porcellus* Lacordaire, 1863 recorded for the first time from northeastern Anatolia (Turkey), supports the recent transfer of the genus *Herpes* to the subfamily Phytonominae. The primary host plant of *H. porcellus* is *Nonea pulla* (L.) DC., but adults feed also on *Anchusa orientalis* (L.) Reichenb., and on an unidentified species of Boraginaceae. Eggs are laid on leaves and flowers. Larvae feed externally on these organs. Mature larvae make a silky cocoon and proceed inside to the pupal stage. The species produces one generation per year and hibernates as adult.

*Keywords:* *Herpes porcellus*, biology, life cycle, host plant, Curculionidae, Turkey

### **INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Herpes* Bedel, 1874 was transferred recently from Entiminae to Phytonominae Gistel, 1848 (= Hyperinae Marseul, 1863; see Colonnelli, 2003) by Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal (2002). The genus includes a single species, *Herpes porcellus* Lacordaire, 1863 distributed in Bulgaria, Romania, southern Ukraine, Southwestern European Russia and Turkey (Weise, 1893; Schenkling & Marshall, 1939; Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal, 1999). *Herpes korbi* (Weise, 1893) is here synonymized with *H. porcellus* based on my comparison of specimens from northeastern Turkey with those from the Ukraine in the Zoological Institute, St. Petersburg. *Herpes korbi* was described from specimens collected on *Heliotropium* sp. (Boraginaceae) in Western Turkey (Amasya Province); no distinctive characters from *H. porcellus* were given in the original description.