

Biology and distribution of *Larinus sibiricus* Gyllenhal (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Lixinae)

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ABSTRACT

Larinus sibiricus Gyllenhal is a poorly known weevil distributed in eastern Europe and in the Middle East. Its biology and host plants are studied in northeastern Turkey for the first time. The main host of this weevil is *Xeranthemum annuum* L. (Asteraceae). In northeastern Anatolia, *L. sibiricus* produces one generation yearly. Females lay eggs in flowerheads; larvae feed on flower parts; pupal stage is undergone in the flowerhead. Teneral adults, after a several-day delay, emerge from the flowerhead and hide under stone or in some other shelter for hibernation. *Bracon urinator* (F.) (Hymenoptera: Braconidae) parasitoid wasp have been reared from larval stage. In the preliminary host preference test, *L. sibiricus* preferred *X. annuum*.

Key words: *Larinus sibiricus*, biology, distribution, *Xeranthemum annuum*, host plants

INTRODUCTION

Larinus sibiricus Gyllenhal, 1836 is a species with poorly known distribution in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. No data on its host plants and parasitoids have been published. In northeastern Anatolia this species has been found fairly common on *Xeranthemum annuum* Linnaeus, 1758, an annual plant widespread in Turkey (Davis, 1975). *Xeranthemum annuum* is one of the plant species in the composition of an eroded xerophytic grass sward and the effects of major erosional factors substantially reduced by erosion in the lower parts of the Rhodopes Mountains (Petrov, 1988).