

## *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) - a first interception for Malta

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International trade which is the result of modern and fast transport across continents, has resulted in the introduction and establishment of alien invasive insects. This was no exception for the Maltese Islands with many alien species being established in relatively recent years. COCQUEMPOT & MIFSUD (2013) provided some information on alien longhorn beetles in Europe with special reference to those introduced and established as well as those intercepted in Malta. The present note provides some information on the Welsh Oak Longhorn Beetle, *Pyrrhidium sanguineum*, a small to medium size (6–16 mm) saproxylic beetle, which is characterized by a spectacular purple or sometimes yellow-orange colour of the pronotum and elytra.

### *Pyrrhidium sanguineum* (Linnaeus, 1758)

**Material examined:** Malta, Naxxar, 8 exs., first intercepted in March 2018 in firewood of *Quercus* sp. The said firewood had been imported from the Ukraine. Identification of the beetle was carried out by David Mifsud and Sergey Kurbatov.

**Notes:** This longhorn beetle is found all over Europe in Albania, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Britain, Bulgaria, Crete, Croatia, Czech Republic, Danish mainland, Estonia, European Russia, Finland, French mainland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy (including Sicily and Sardinia), Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, the Near East, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Ukraine, North Africa in Tunisia and Egypt and in western Asia in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Iran, Syria and Turkey (SAMA & LÖBL, 2010). It is found in broad leaved forests having a preference for oak trees.

Similar to the above interception in Malta was the recent case in Israel, where *P. sanguineum* specimens were collected from oak timber (intended for heating) imported from Ukraine (RITTNER, 2016). Surveys in Malta should be carried out in order to assess if this beetle managed to establish itself in the wild, in which case it can be damaging to native holm oak, *Quercus ilex*.

### REFERENCES

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