

Temnoscheila caerulea Olivier, 1790 (Coleoptera, Trogossitidae) – new record for the Maltese Islands

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In 2018, the Plant Health Directorate forwarded to the author a beetle for identification purposes. The beetle was collected in a pheromone trap for *Monochamus* spp. as part of ongoing surveys carried out in Malta. The beetle was identified as *Temnoscheila caerulea* which belong to the family Trogossitidae. This family was recently reviewed by KOLIBÁČ (2013) and about 600 described species are currently included in this group. Species of *Temnoscheila* are predatory with adults hunting xylophagous beetles on logs and branches of various trees and shrubs. Larvae live mostly under bark but sometimes dwell on the surface of wood as well. The bulk of *Temnoscheila* spp. are distributed in the two Americas with very few species present in the Palaearctic region. The family is locally represented by another recorded species. Information on both species is hereunder included.

Temnoscheila caerulea Olivier, 1790

Material examined: Malta, Hal Far (Freeport), 24.v.2018, 1 ex., in pheromone trap for *Monochamus* spp.

Distribution: South Europe, southwestern Asia, North Africa and China.

Notes: New record for the Maltese Islands. This beetle is included as least concern (LC) in the Red Lists of saproxylic species (CÁLIX *et al.*, 2018; CARPANETO *et al.*, 2015). It is a rare species associated with old growth forests which are lacking in Malta. However, many studies revealed that small forest fragments, tree rows or even single old trees (sometimes also in urban or suburban habitats) can support relict populations of rare saproxylic beetles (e.g. OLEKSA *et al.* 2007; CARPANETO *et al.* 2010).

Tenebroides mauritanicus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material examined: Malta, Buskett, 12.iv.1977, 1 ex., leg. M. Ebejer.

Distribution: Cosmopolitan.

Notes: This species was previously reported from Malta by CAMERON & CARUANA GATTO (1907) as commonly found near granaries throughout the year. Although most species of this genus are predatory, the cadelle beetle, *Tenebroides mauritanicus* feeds on grains. It is a synanthropic species and often a serious pest of stored grain. It is probably originally from Europe. The wild population, sometimes designated as the separate species, *T. fuscus* Goeze, 1777, lives in forests and its adults and larvae may be found under the bark of deciduous trees, where they feed on other insects (KOLIBÁČ, 2013).

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