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**Marina J. Orlova-Bienkowskaja & Mark
G. Volkovitsh**

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Range expansion of *Agrilus convexicollis* in European Russia expedited by the invasion of the emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

Marina J. Orlova-Bienkowskaja ·
Mark G. Volkovitsh

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Abstract The jewel beetle *Agrilus convexicollis* Redtenbacher, 1849 (Buprestidae) occurs in many European and North Mediterranean countries and feeds mainly on dying shoots and branches of ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*, *F. ornus* and *F. oxyphylla*). A range map of *A. convexicollis* with 479 exact localities from the literature and museum collections is compiled. Historically, this species was not known to be present in the central region of European Russia. Since 2007, however, specimens of *A. convexicollis* have been collected in seven central European Russia localities, effectively expanding the northern border of the previously known range by approximately 665 km. All recently established localities of *A. convexicollis* are within the region invaded by emerald ash borer (*A. planipennis* Fairmaire), an East Asian pest of ashes that was first detected in European Russia in 2003. In addition, almost all *A. convexicollis* specimens from central European Russia (both adults and larvae) were collected from declining *F. pennsylvanica* (an introduced North American ash) infested

with *A. planipennis*. This is a new host record for *A. convexicollis*. We suspect that the recent range expansion of *A. convexicollis* in central European Russia has been facilitated by the *A. planipennis* invasion, which has caused widespread decline and mortality of ash trees in the region. This work illustrates how the invasion of one species can facilitate the range expansion of another.

Keywords Buprestidae · *Agrilus convexicollis* · *Agrilus planipennis* · Emerald ash borer · Range expansion · Ash

The jewel beetle *Agrilus convexicollis* Redtenbacher, 1849 (Buprestidae) develops mainly in cambial region of recently dead shoots and branches of ash trees: *Fraxinus excelsior*, *F. ornus* and *F. oxyphylla* (Brechtel and Kostenbader 2002). The larva was previously described by Alexeev (1981) and Bílý (1999). *A. convexicollis* occurs in many European and North Mediterranean countries, from Spain to Azerbaijan. Within its native range in Central Europe, this species prefers lowland and riverine areas but may also be found in forests up to elevations of 500 m (Bílý 2002). While historical records suggest that *A. convexicollis* was not known to be present in central European Russia (Jendek 2006), collections since 2007 indicate its recent establishment at seven localities in the central regions of European Russia (Vlasov 2010;

M. J. Orlova-Bienkowskaja (✉)
A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution,
Russian Academy of Sciences, 33 Leninskiy Prospect,
119071 Moscow, Russia
e-mail: marinaorlben@yandex.ru

M. G. Volkovitsh
Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences,
Universitetskaya nab. 1, 199034 St. Petersburg, Russia
e-mail: polycest@zin.ru

Nikitsky 2009; original data). We mapped the range of this species and analyzed its dynamics which led us to conclude that the expansion of *A. convexicollis* in central European Russia was likely facilitated by the recent introduction and spread of emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire, 1888 (Buprestidae), an East Asian pest of ashes that was first detected in European Russia (Moscow region) in 2003.

We compiled distributional information on *A. convexicollis* by examining collection data from 29 museum specimens, and 48 previously published literature sources. Besides this we collected 81 specimens in nature. Data from 479 exact localities were used in our analyses (Tables 1, 2; Fig. 1).

The infestation signs by *A. convexicollis* and *A. planipennis* are different. First, larvae of *A. convexicollis* develop in thin shoots and upper part of the stems (the width of affected stem is usually less than 3 cm), while larvae of *A. planipennis* develop in stems, which are more than 5 cm thick. Second, the exit holes of *A. convexicollis* are <2 mm width, while the exit holes of *A. planipennis* are about 4 mm width. Third, maximal width of larval galleries is about 2 mm in *A. convexicollis* and about 5 mm in *A. planipennis*. The signs of infestation are easily distinguishable, so these species cannot be mixed.

About 50 % of collected larvae of *A. convexicollis* were damaged by parasitoids. In 2013 adults were captured from 1 June to 5 July, in 2014 from 2 June to 7 July.

A. convexicollis was reported to feed on *Fraxinus excelsior*, *F. ornus*, *F. oxyphylla*, *Ligustrum vulgare*, *Syringa vulgaris*, *Olea europea* (Oleaceae) and on some other trees and shrubs such as *Euonymus*, *Betula*, *Corylus*, *Populus*, *Salix*, *Quercus*, *Acer*, *Tilia*, *Ulmus*, and *Cornus* (reviews: Hellrigl 1978; Brechtel and Kostenbader 2002; Bílý 2002). However, most cited authors regard the last several host records to be doubtful. All specimens we collected in central European Russia were collected on *F. pennsylvanica*. This ash species was introduced from North America to European Russia more than 100 years ago and has become one of the most common trees planted in urban settings in central European Russia (Majorov et al. 2012). Our analysis has revealed that before 2007, *A. convexicollis* was not recorded in the central regions of European Russia. The northernmost localities of this species in Russia were in Voronezh region. But since 2007, *A. convexicollis* was found to be

established in seven localities of central European Russia: Moscow region, Yaroslavl region and Lipetsk region (Vlasov 2010; Nikitsky 2009; original data). Currently, the northernmost locality is in the Yaroslavl region, i.e. 665 km to the north of the previously known northernmost localities.

Could *A. convexicollis* occur but remain unnoticed in central European Russia before? It is very unlikely, though it is impossible to prove the absence of any insect species in any territory. Fauna of xylophagous beetles in Moscow region has historically been intensively surveyed, but *A. convexicollis* was not recorded (Nikitsky et al. 1996). There are no specimens of *A. convexicollis* collected in central Russia in rich collections of Zoological Institute (Russian Academy of Sciences) and Zoological Museum of Moscow State University, though there are many specimens of other *Agrilus* species collected in this territory. *A. convexicollis* is easy to notice, because it is not microscopic (the length is about 3.5–5.5 mm) and not nocturnal. It occurs on the leaves of ashes in cities, where many professional and amateur entomologists live. Forty-six species of the genus *Agrilus* are known from European Russia (Volkovitsh 2013), but they mainly occur in the south. 17 species are known from Moscow region (Nikitsky et al. 1996, 2013).

Fraxinus excelsior is native, but very rare in Moscow region. Nearly all ash trees are introduced as landscape plants. *F. pennsylvanica* has been planted in central Russia for 50–100 years (Majorov et al. 2012), but *A. convexicollis* appeared only several years ago. We suspect that *A. convexicollis* has only recently expanded its range to the north.

What factors could facilitate such quick expansion? It is well known that many beetles in Europe are now spreading northward because of warming climates (Beenen and Roques 2010). Climate change alone, however, is likely not the only factor to contribute to the northward expansion of *A. convexicollis*. Novel localities of *A. convexicollis* in central European Russia are all dispersed throughout the region recently invaded by emerald ash borer, *A. planipennis*, and most of the specimens have been collected from *A. planipennis*-infested ash trees. Therefore, we suspect that naturalization and expansion of *A. convexicollis* in this region has been facilitated by widespread weakening and mortality of ash trees caused by the emerald ash borer invasion (Fig. 2).

Table 1 Regions and localities where *A. convexicollis* has been found within its native range

Region	Number of mapped localities	Years of collection	Source of information
Albania	0	Pre 2000	Sakalian (2000)
Armenia	1	1955	Examined specimens
Austria	16	1849–1958	Geiser (2001), Jendek (2002), GBIF (2013) and examined specimens
Azerbaijan	1	1912, 1959	Babadjanides (1917), Alexeev (1959)
Belarus	0	Pre 2006	Jendek (2006)
Belgium	15	1860–1998	Schaefer (1949), GBIF (2013)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	1978	Popo (1978)
Bulgaria	25	1933–2003	Obenberger (1935), Bílý (1979), Weidlich (1989), Sakalian (2003), GBIF (2013)
Croatia	9	Pre 1994	Curletti (1994), Muskovits and Hegyessy (2002)
Czech Republic	4	1931–2012	Gottwald (1968), GBIF (2013) and examined specimens
France	50	1949–1994	Schaefer (1949), Curletti (1994), Brechtel and Kostenbader (2002), Petitprêtre and Marengo (2011)
Georgia	1	1959–2013	Alexeev (1959) and examined specimens
Germany	54	1934–2004	Weidlich (1987), Köhler and Klausnitzer (1998), Brechtel and Kostenbader (2002), Niehuis (2004), GBIF (2013) and examined specimens
Greece	11	Pre 2000	Mühle et al. (2000)
Hungary	71	Pre 2002	Muskovits and Hegyessy (2002)
Italy	86	1927–2006	Hellrigl (1974), Magnani and Sparacio (1985), Curletti (1994), Jendek (2002), Rastelli et al. (2003), GBIF (2013)
Latvia	1	1900–1993	Barševskis and Savenkov (2001) and examined specimens
Liechtenstein	0	Pre 2006	Jendek (2006)
Luxembourg	0	Pre 2006	Jendek (2006)
Macedonia	1	Pre 2012	GBIF (2013)
Moldova	1	1917	Bacal et al. (2013) and personal communication by N. Munteanu
Montenegro	2	1971, 1977	Drovenik and Hladil (1984) and examined specimens
Poland	20	1887–2006	GBIF (2013), Coleoptera Poloniae (2013)
Romania	5	1940–2002	Muskovits and Hegyessy (2002), Ruicănescu (2013)
Russia, Adygea	1	1880	Volkovitch et al. (2010) and examined specimens
Russia, Dagestan	1	2013	Examined specimens
Russia, Karachay-Cherkessia	1	Pre 2008	Nikitsky et al. (2008)
Russia, Krasnodar territory	1	1959, 1971, 1978	Alexeev (1959) and examined specimens
Russia, Rostov region	2	1933, 2007	Examined specimens and personal communication by D.V. Vlasov
Russia, Stavropol territory	1	Pre 1935	Jendek (2007)
Russia, Volgograd region	0	Pre 1957	Alexeev (1957)
Russia, Voronezh region	2	1935, 1955	Stark (1955) and examined specimens
Serbia	2	1958	Sakalian et al. (2001), GBIF (2013)
Slovakia	10	1947–2002	Gottwald (1968), Bozděchová (1971), Muskovits and Hegyessy (2002), GBIF (2013)
Slovenia	1	Pre 1994	Curletti (1994)
Spain	1	Pre 2005	Verdugo (2005)
Sweden	17	1949–2009	Bílý (1982), GBIF (2013)

Table 1 continued

Region	Number of mapped localities	Years of collection	Source of information
Switzerland	30	1886–2007	Schaefer (1949), CSCF (2013)
Turkey	5	1972–1976	Niehuis and Tezcan (1993)
Ukraine	23	1907–2008	Alexeev (1959), Zagajkevich (1962), IUCN Evaluation Report (2007), Prokhorov (2010) and examined specimens

Specimens examined are primarily deposited in the collections housed at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg

Table 2 Localities where *A. convexicollis* has recently been found in central European Russia

Collection localities	Number of locality in the map	Coordinates	Dates	Number of specimens	Was the tree damaged by <i>A. planipennis</i> ?	Source of information
<i>Yaroslavl region</i>						
Yaroslavl	1	57.63N, 39.87E	2007 and 30.6.2013	4 adults	Yes	Examined specimens and Vlasov (2010)
<i>Moscow region</i>						
Zelenograd	2	55.99N, 37.20E	1.6.2013–29.6.2014	51 adults, 12 larvae	Yes	Examined specimens
Manikhino	3	55.88N, 36.97E	15.6.2008	1 adult	Yes	Nikitsky (2009)
Staraya Kupavna	4	55.81N, 38.18E	21.6.2013	9 adults	Yes	Examined specimens
Monino	5	55.84N, 38.20E	21.6.2013	2 adults	Yes	Examined specimens
Uzunovo	6	54.55N, 38.62E	29.6.2013	1 adult	Yes	Examined specimen
<i>Lipetsk region</i>						
Gryazi*	7	52.49N, 39.93E	27.6.2013	1 adult	No	Examined specimen

Examined specimens were collected on *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. All specimens but one were collected from ash trees known to be infested by emerald ash borer, *A. planipennis*

* An adult of *A. convexicollis* was captured in Gryazi on the declining *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*. But we did not find signs of infestation by *A. planipennis* there, though this location is between known locations of *A. planipennis*. Gryazi is quite close to the native range of *A. convexicollis*. So it is unknown, if this location is a part of native or secondary range

The emerald ash borer, *A. planipennis* is an invasive ash pest in North America and Europe (Cappaert et al. 2005; EPPO 2013). Its native range is East Asia (Jendek 2006; Jendek and Grebennikov 2011). The first introduction of this Asian pest in Europe was recorded in 2003 in Moscow (Shankhiza 2007; Volkovitsh 2007). Since then, *A. planipennis* has been detected in 11 regions of European Russia (Orlova-Bienkowskaja 2013a, b; Baranchikov 2013; Straw et al. 2013; Volkovitsh and Mozolevskaya 2014). All known localities of *A. convexicollis* in central European Russia are within the region

currently infested by *A. planipennis* (Fig. 2). Furthermore, all specimens of *A. convexicollis* except one were collected on declining *F. pennsylvanica* infested with *A. planipennis*. *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* is a new host record for *A. convexicollis*. Larvae and young beetles of *A. convexicollis* were collected from under the bark of the upper parts of the stems, which were already dry. As *A. convexicollis* can feed on this American ash species, it theoretically could become a pest in the case of invasion to North America, but it is unknown, whether this species is able to damage healthy trees.

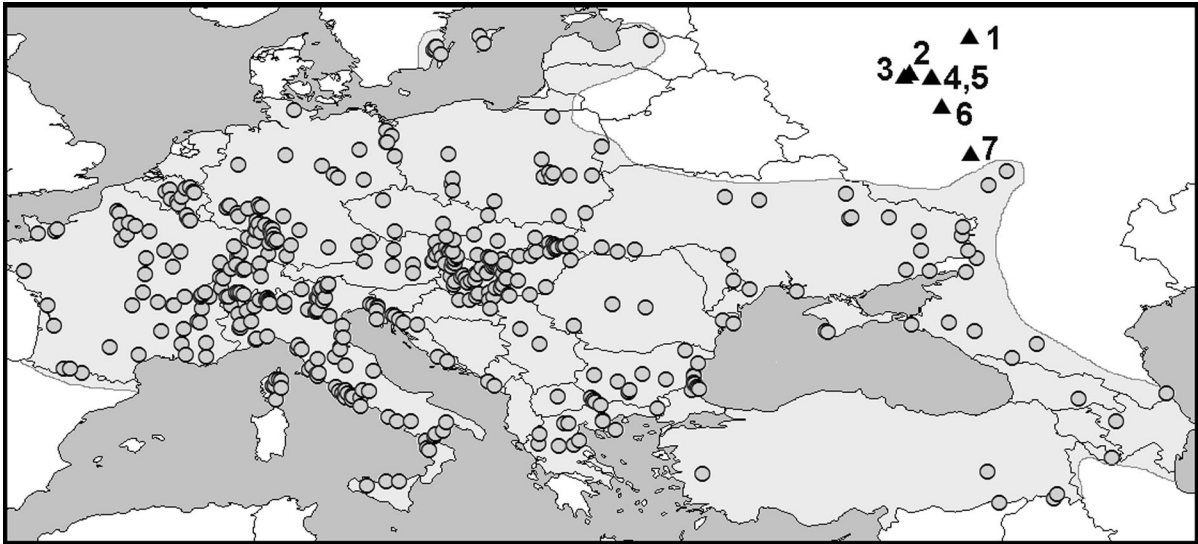


Fig. 1 The known range of *A. convexicollis* as of 2013. Circles—findings within native range. Triangles—recent findings in central European Russia (2007–2013). The range before

2007 is shaded gray. Numbers of localities correspond to the numbers in Table 2. Sources of information are listed in Tables 1 and 2

Fig. 2 The known ranges of *A. convexicollis* and *A. planipennis* in European Russia and adjacent regions as of 2013. Dark gray area—invasive range of *A. planipennis*. Squares—localities, where *A. planipennis* was found. Light gray area—native range of *A. convexicollis*. Circles—localities, where *A. convexicollis* was found within its native range. Triangles—localities where *A. convexicollis* was found outside its native range (all findings in 2007–2013). Range of *A. planipennis* is given after Orlova-Bienkowskaja (2013b)



The spread of *A. planipennis* in central European Russia has caused mass weakening and mortality of ash trees, which, in turn, creates an ephemeral host

resource suitable for *A. convexicollis* colonization. The quickly increasing amount of larval food now available to *A. convexicollis* has likely facilitated its

population buildup and spread northward. Biological invasions often have cascading ecological effects, including secondary invasions by other species (Simberloff and Von Holle 1999; Simberloff 2006). This work illustrates how the invasion of one species may facilitate the range expansion of another species.

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