

## **Genus *Plateumaris* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) in Romania**

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### **Rezumat**

#### **Genul *Plateumaris* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) în România**

Genul *Plateumaris* este reprezentat în România prin 6 specii și 6 varietăți cromatice, identificate pe baza colectărilor personale și a literaturii de specialitate. Sunt prezentate atât răspândirea generală și națională cât și unele date biologice ale acestor specii.

**Keywords:** *Plateumaris*, Chrysomelidae, România.

### **Introduction, material and methods**

From a taxonomic point of view, genus *Plateumaris* belongs to the Donaciinae subfamily, which includes species whose larvae live on the roots of water plants while the adults feed on the leaves of the plants found in wet environments.

In Europe, this genus is represented by 6 species, also found in Romania, where 6 chromatic varieties have been identified.

Systematics and nomenclatures are based generally on KIPPEMBERG, DOBERL (1994).

General distribution of leaf-beetles in the Palearctic region is based on WINKLER (1927-1932). The species are published in alphabetical order and in brackets there are the authors who mentioned the species.

**Genus *Plateumaris* Thomson, 1859**

**Subgenus *Plateumaris* Thomson, 1859**

***Plateumaris (Plateumaris) discolor (Panzer, 1795)***

Terra typica: not reported

General distribution: western and central Europe

Distribution in Romania: Slătioara (DĂNILĂ 1970), Făgăraș Mts, Geaca (BIELZ 1887) Cluj (PETRI 1912), Azuga, Predeal (JACQUET, 1901).

Biological notes: host - plants are *Eriophorum* L, *Carex* L.

***Plateumaris (Plateumaris) sericea (Linnaeus, 1761)***

Terra typica: not reported

General distribution: Europe and Siberia

Distribution in Romania: Vârful Câmpului (TĂRĂBUTĂ et colab., 1999), Țaga (MARCU 1928) - nominal form and ab. *micans* Panz., ab. *nymphaeae* Fabr., ab. *festucae* Panz., Azuga, Dulcești, Chitila, Bucovina (FLECK 1904), Băișorii Mts. (CRIȘAN 1997), Caraula (ILIE 2002) - nominal form and ab. *micans* Panz., ab. *nymphaeae* Fabr., ab. *festucae* Panz., ab. *armata* Payk, Sibiu, Brașov, Bistrița, Geaca (BIELZ 1887), Comana (MONTANDON 1906), Valley of Roșu rivulet (CSIKI 1951), Ic-Ponor (CRIȘAN et colab., 1999).

Biological notes: host-plants are *Iris* L., *Alisma* L., *Carex* L., *Sparganium* L., *Scirpus silvaticus* L., *Juncus reticulatus* L., *Typha* L.

#### **Subgenus *Juliusina* Reitter, 1920**

##### ***Plateumaris (Juliusina) affinis* (Kunze, 1818)**

Terra typica: not reported.

General distribution: central, western, southern Europe and Siberia.

Distribution in Romania: Covasna (SZÉL et colab. 1994), Comana (FLECK 1904), Bahna (MARCU 1929), Reghin, Cluj (BIELZ 1887), Sibiu (PETRI 1912), Chitila (JACQUET 1901).

Biological notes: host-plants are *Carex* L.

##### ***Plateumaris (Juliusina) braccata* (Scopoli, 1772)**

Terra typica: Dalmatian coast.

General distribution: Europe, Caucaz, Turkestan, Siberia.

Distribution in Romania: Cluj (BIELZ 1887), Sovata, Zau de Câmpie (PETRI, 1912), Cheile Turului (CRIȘAN & TEODOR 1996).

Biological notes: host-plants are *Carex* L., *Phragmites australis* St.

##### ***Plateumaris (Juliusina) consimilis* (Schrank, 1781)**

Terra typica: not reported.

General distribution: central, southern Europe, Siberia, Japan.

Distribution in Romania: Cheile Turzii (CRIȘAN 1992), Harghita (ROZNER 1997), Cugir Mt., Tărtăria (SZÉL et colab., 1994), Azuga, Predeal, Bucovina, Comana, Chitila (FLECK, 1904) - nominal form and ab. *variabilis* Kunze, Țețina (MARCU, 1928), Sibiu, Brașov, Guruslău, Mediaș, Făgăraș Mts. (FRIVALDSZKY, 1871), Izvorul Izei, Strâmtura, Călinești, Săcățuri, Valley of Frumuseana river, Crasna Vișeuului, Repedea, Ocna Șugatag, Pleșca chalet, Bistra, Izvoarele, Desești (MAICAN, SERAFIM, 2001), Banat (Banatului Museum), Ic-Ponor (CRIȘAN, 1999).

Biological notes: host-plants are *Carex* L., *Juncus articulatus* L., *Caltha palustris* L.

##### ***Plateumaris (Juliusina) rustica* (Kunze, 1818).**

Terra typica: not reported.

General distribution: central and eastern Europe.

Distribution in Romania: Baraolt Mts, Ozunca Băi (SZÉL et colab., 1994)

Biological notes: host-plants are *Carex* L., *Juncus articulatus* L., *Phragmites australis* St.

### Results and discussions

After having analyzed the fauna list of genus *Plateumaris* at a national level, the following has been ascertained: the species that are mentioned the most are *Plateumaris sericea* and *Plateumaris consimilis*, whereas the species *Plateumaris rustica* has been mentioned fairly recently (1994). Many mentions of these species are also relatively old (the end of the 19-th century and the beginning of the 20-th century), but subsequently, although some research has been conducted in many of those areas, a large number of these species could not be found any more. This is due to the destruction of their natural environment by man as a result of drainage, restoring the wetlands to agriculture, deviating the courses of rivers, clearing and burning the water vegetation, especially the reed, which constitutes a place to winter as well as a feeding ground for these insects. A conclusive example to illustrate this aspect is the species *Plateumaris sericea* which I collected myself in the area of Caraula, in Dolj county. Until the year 2000 the number of these insects was high, but the clearing and burning of the reed during February and March of the same year have caused a dramatic destruction of the species; consequently, only one sample has been collected in 2001. Starting from that year the species was not found again in the area.

Therefore the protection of all wet environments is required in the order to stop the extinction of other water-life forms.

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