

Two new host plant species of *Parmena bicincta* Küster, 1849 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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ABSTRACT: Two new host plant species of *Parmena bicincta* representing new families are recorded: *Agave americana* (Agavaceae) and *Chritmum maritimum* (Apiaceae). With two figures.

KOVÁCS et al. (1999) published host plants of three *Parmena* species, i.e. *Parmena bicincta* Küster, 1849 from *Ficus carica*; *P. pubescens pilosa* Brullé, 1832 from *Chritmum maritimum* and *Euphorbia wulfenii*; *P. unifasciata* (Rossi, 1790) from *Ficus carica*, *Hedera helix*, *Juglans regia* and *Quercus* sp. Of these, *Ficus carica* was a new host plant for *P. bicincta*, while *Juglans regia* and *Quercus* sp. for *P. unifasciata* (cf. BENSE 1995, BRELIH et al. 2006, SAMA 1984, 1985, 2002).

Known host plant species for *Parmena bicincta*: *Euphorbia wulfenii* (BENSE 1995, SAMA 1985) and *Ficus carica* (KOVÁCS et al. 1999).

New host plant data: Croatia, Hvar, Hvar, Križni rat, N43°09'48.02", E16°26'44.95", 20 m, 26.07.2005.>22.06.2006, *Agave americana*, 1 adult female, Kovács, T. (Mátra Museum, Gyöngyös) – Rovanjaska, N44°14'53.41", E15°32'16.40", 2 m, 05.05.2006>28.06.2006, 1 adult male, *Chritmum maritimum*, Kovács, T. (Mátra Museum, Gyöngyös).



Fig. 1. *Agave americana* with live and dead bloom.
Arrow indicating place of developing beetle in the plant (photo Dóra Kovács)

Rarity of *Parmena bicincta* may be the cause of the low number of known host plant species, since this beetle develops in both herbaceous (*Euphorbia wulfenii* – Euphorbiaceae) and woody plants (*Ficus carica* – Moraceae). One of its new host plants, *Chritmum maritimum* (Apiaceae)

is herbaceous, while the other is the monocotyledonous *Agave americana* (formerly Agavaceae, now Asparagaceae) (Fig. 1), which is introduced from Central America and established in the Mediterranean. The larva in *C. maritimum* bored in the base of the stem, first beneath the epidermis then deeper where pupation took place (Fig. 2a). In *A. americana* the larva bored in one of the stalks of dead inflorescence beneath the epidermis and pupated there (Fig. 2b). This type of larval burrowing is similar to those in woody host plant (*Ficus carica*).

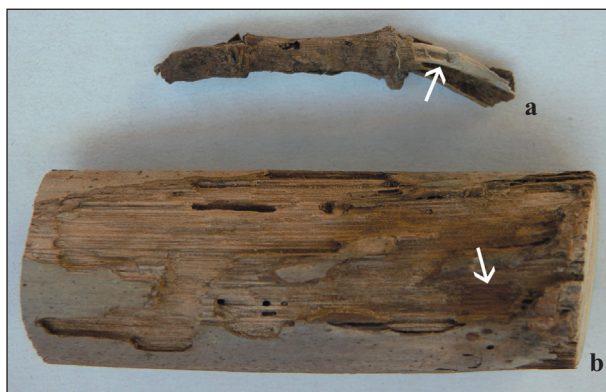


Fig. 2a–b. Burrows of *Parnena bicincta*, a = *Chritimum maritimum*, b = *Agave americana*.
Arrows indicating place of pupation

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