

The First Record of *Mecinus pascuorum* (GYLLENHAL) (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Japan

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Mecinus pascuorum (GYLLENHAL, 1813) is a small curculionid weevil belonging to the tribe Mecinini, subfamily Curculioninae (CALDARA, 2013). This species, which is monophagous on *Plantago lanceolata* (HOFFMANN, 1958; CALDARA & FOGATO, 2013; NIEMINEN & VIKBERG, 2015), is known to occur in the Palearctic Region from the Iberian Peninsula to Kazakhstan and to be imported in other continents (CALDARA, 2013; CALDARA & FOGATO, 2013). However, this species has never been recorded from Japan to date. Recently, we had an opportunity to examine a short series of specimens of *M. pascuorum* collected from North Honshu, Japan, as recorded below.



Figs. 1–2. Habitus of *Mecinus pascuorum* (GYLLENHAL), ♂ from Aomori Pref., Japan. — 1, Dorsal habitus; 2, lateral habitus.

Mecinus pascuorum (GYLLENHAL, 1813)

(Figs. 1–2)

Rhynchaenus pascuorum GYLLENHAL, 1813, 124 (type locality: Sweden).*Gymnetron pascuorum*: GYLLENHAL, 1838, 744.*Mecinus pascuorum*: CALDARA, 2001, 183.

See CALDARA and FOGATO (2013) for other synonyms.

Specimens examined. JAPAN: Honshu. 3 exs., Aomori Pref., Hachinohe Port Island, 10.VI.2015, T. ONO leg., on *Plantago lanceolata*.*Distribution.* Europe, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia, Algeria; introduced to North America, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa; Japan – **new record**.*Host plant.* *Plantago lanceolata* (Plantaginaceae).*Biological note.* Larvae of this species feed on fruits and pupate in the floral spikes of *P. lanceolata* (HOFFMANN, 1958).*Remarks.* This is the first species of *Mecinus* known for Japan, where the tribe Mecinini is poorly represented (CALDARA, 2013), and therefore easily distinguishable from other species based on the morphological characters quoted by CALDARA (2001) and CALDARA and FOGATO (2013). *Plantago lanceolata* is one of the invasive plants of Japan, which was introduced accidentally from Europe in 19th century and then spread countrywide (National Institute for Environmental Studies, Japan, 2004). This time, *M. pascuorum* was found on *P. lanceolata* growing in an artificial harbor, suggesting strongly that this is not native to Japan but an invasive species from a foreign country, though the invasion route of this species to Japan is unclear.**References**

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