

ON INTERCEPTIONS OF TROPICAL PLATYPODIDAE (COLEOPTERA)
FROM WOOD IMPORTED INTO ISRAEL*

J.HALPERIN¹ and JEAN-J. MENIER²

¹ Division of Entomology, Agricultural Research Organization, Hanoi,
42805 Israel, and ²Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Entomologie,
45 Rue Buffon, 75005 Paris, France

In a survey of xylophagous insects introduced into Israel with the import of logs and wood products, the following beetles of the family Platypodidae have been intercepted (Table 1.)

TABLE 1. SPECIES OF *PLA TYPUS* INTERCEPTED IN ISRAEL,

Species	Infested timber	Common name	Origin
<i>P. curtus</i> Chapuis	<i>Shorea</i> sp. ¹	Meranti	Philippines
<i>P. hintzi</i> Schaufuss	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i> ²	Ako	Ivory Coast
<i>P. hintzi</i> Schaufuss	<i>Aucoumea klaineana</i> ²	Okoume	Nigeria
<i>P. hintzi</i> Schaufuss	<i>Daniellia ogea</i> ²	Faro	West Africa
<i>P. linearis</i> Chapuis	<i>Antiaris toxicaria</i> ²	Ako	West Africa
<i>P. linearis</i> Chapuis	<i>Aucoumea klaineana</i> ²	Okoume	Gabon, Nigeria

1. ex veneer

2. ex. log

3. bred from *Ceratonia siliqua* from Tel Aviv.

*Contribution from the Agricultural Research Organization, Bet Dagan, Israel.
No. 265-E. 1981 Series.

Of the five species, three were intercepted often and in great numbers, in the sapwood of logs imported from West Africa for plywood production. One species was found occasionally in veneer imported from the Philippines, and one species, *P. solidus*, was bred from larvae found in the trunk of a carob tree cut in Tel Aviv. Because of the single record of *P. solidus*, close to a zoo, it was suggested (Halperin, 1976), that the beetles had been introduced from the Far East in a wooden cage in which animals had been transported.

Tropical wood for plywood production has been imported into Israel for many years, yet none of the three species of the platypodid beetles introduced every year in great numbers has been able to establish itself, even though they may find here (as *P. solidus* did) a suitable host-tree for breeding: *P. hintzi* is known to develop also in *Albizzia*, *Celtis*, *Ficus* and *Morus*; *P. linearis* develops occasionally in *Albizzia*; and *P. solutus* may breed in many subtropical trees, such as *Acacia decurrens*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Grevillea robusta*, *Persea americana* and *Punica granatum* (Schedl, 1962). All these trees are quite common in Israel.

Neither of the only two palaearctic species, *P. cylindrus* F. (which is found also in Turkey and North Africa) and *P. oxyurus* Dufour (which occurs sporadically also in Turkey and Iran) (Balachowsky, 1949), has been found so far in Israel.

Hence, it seems that the danger of establishment of these platypodid beetles introduced into Israel with logs, is very limited.

REFERENCES

Balachowsky, A. 1949. Faune de France, 50. Coléoptères, Scolytides. Paris, Lechevalier, 320 pp.
Halperin, J. 1976. The first occurrence of an ambrosia beetle (family Platypodidae) in Israel.
La-Yaaron 26:21-25. (Hebrew and English summary).
Schedl, K.E. 1962. Scolytidae und Platypodiade Afrikas. III. Familie Platypodidae. *Revista de Entomologia di Mocambique* 5:595-1352.