

Pheromone trapping of the double-spined bark beetle *Ips duplicatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae): seasonal variation in abundance

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ABSTRACT

Ips duplicatus adults were sampled with pheromone-baited black window-slot traps (Theysohn) in 70- to 100-year-old Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) stands between 280 and 650 m a.s.l. in the eastern Czech Republic and southern Poland during 2000–2010. Sets of 5–12 traps were placed about 20 m from the edge of the infested forest. Each trap was baited with a standard synthetic pheromone lure (ID Ecolure), and was setup 1.5–2.0 m above the ground. The objectives were to determine the relationship between the numbers of adults trapped in the overwintered generation and those in the offspring generation. According to data from 135 traps, the numbers of overwintered beetles captured in spring (April–June) were significantly higher than the numbers captured in summer (July–August), but the numbers of offspring beetles captured in summer were significantly correlated with the numbers overwintered beetles captured in spring. The spring captures can be used to estimate the threat caused by *I. duplicatus* during the whole vegetation season. The traps installed in summer should be used to determine the peaks in the bark beetle flight activity, thus enabling early identification of trees infested by *I. duplicatus*, especially inside stands.

KEY WORDS

central Europe, flight activity, generation, *Ips duplicatus*, pheromone lure

INTRODUCTION

The double-spined bark beetle, *Ips duplicatus* (Sahlberg 1836), is naturally distributed in the northern part of the Europe, from Sweden through Finland and Siberia, reaching as far as Sakhalin (Pfeffer and Knížek 1995). It is naturally present in northern Poland

(Karpiński 1935), however considered an invasive species e.g. in Slovakia (Zúbrik et al. 2006). It is listed as a quarantine pest by the European Union and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (Smith et al. 1996), but also exists on some lists of protected species (e.g., Bussler and Bense 2003). Local outbreaks of *I. duplicatus* were recorded in Poland and

the Czech Republic in the 1990s (Knížek and Zahradník 1996; Grodzki 1997, 2003), but *I. duplicatus* has also been regarded as a major cause of damage in natural spruce forests in Inner Mongolia, China, where outbreaks of this beetle have frequently occurred since the 1950s (Zhang and Schlyter 1995; Schlyter et al. 2001; Zhang et al. 2001).

The life cycle of *I. duplicatus* is generally similar to that of *I. typographus* (L.) (Holuša et al. 2003), however some differences exist. The spring swarming in *I. duplicatus* can occur earlier and more rapidly than that of *I. typographus* (Grodzki 1998), as in *I. duplicatus* the adult is the only overwintering stadium (Schnaider and Sierpiński 1955). It may co-occur with *I. typographus* on the same trees, usually infesting the upper parts of stems. However, in epidemic conditions *I. duplicatus* competes with *I. typographus* for space, and it may then also be found on the middle and basal parts of stems (Grodzki 2012). In northern Europe (including northern Poland), *I. duplicatus* is univoltine (Schnaider and Sierpiński 1955), however in southern Poland and the Czech Republic a second, and sometimes third, generation can be produced (Mrkva 1995; Holuša et al. 2003). That is why, in epidemic conditions, this species is considered as a serious agent of mortality in Norway spruce (Grodzki 1997; Holuša and Liška 2003).

The last *I. duplicatus* outbreak in the Czech Republic began in 2003, and the numbers of trees to be infested and/or killed has remained high since 2005 (Holuša et al. 2010b); consequently, this species is now considered economically important in the Czech Republic. In Central Europe, *I. duplicatus* is spreading westward (Holuša et al. 2010b), as well as east and southward (Vakula et al. 2009).

The forecast and control of this pest is complicated, as the beetles usually attack the trees inside the forest stand, first establishing their galleries in the crown zone. Thus, the identification of infested trees is difficult, and usually delayed. Lying traps are not attractive to the beetles, and are ineffective (Sierpiński 1958). The use of pheromone-baited artificial traps however, may be a useful additional tool in actively protecting forests against *I. duplicatus*.

At present, there are several artificial pheromone lures available for this species, which differ in efficiency (Holuša et al. 2010a). Thanks to the develop-

ment of these lures, it is possible to monitor the flight activity of *I. duplicatus* over large areas, even when the beetle is present in only small numbers (Grodzki 1998; Holuša et al. 2010b). According to these results, it appears that the number of beetles captured from the spring generation roughly correlates with the numbers of trees attacked throughout the whole year, albeit at the level higher than an individual stand. Some foresters see little worth in monitoring *I. duplicatus* during the summer.

The main goal of this study was to test if the summer captures correspond with the insect abundance in spring, in order to determine if it is necessary or worthwhile (from a practical point of view), to install pheromone traps during summer allowing capture the offspring generation.

METHODS

Field trapping experiments were conducted in 70- to 100-year-old Norway spruce *Picea abies* (L.) Karst. stands located between 280 and 650 m a.s.l. in the eastern Czech Republic and southern Poland. Pheromone-baited black window-slot traps were used (Theysohn, Germany), each with a total active surface area of 4284 cm² (42 × 51 cm on two sides) (Niemeyer et al. 1983). Sets of 5–12 traps were placed about 20 m from the edge of the threatened forest, as recommended by Chen et al. (2010). The traps in each set were oriented along a line parallel to the forest edge and deployed 1.5–2.0 m above the soil surface at a distance of 15 m apart, which was sufficient to minimise the overlap of pheromone plumes. Each trap was baited with a standard synthetic pheromone lure (ID Ecolure, Fytofarm, Slovakia). One set of traps was deployed for each locality and year (tab. 1).

Seasonal flight activity of *I. duplicatus* in the spruce forests was monitored during the entire growing season in: 2000 (data were published in Holuša et al. 2010b), 2001, 2004 (Holuša et al. 2006), 2005 (Holuša et al. 2006), 2006 (Holuša et al. 2007), 2008 (Holuša et al. 2010a), and 2010; a total of 135 traps in total (tab. 1). Each year, the traps and lures were deployed at the end of April and checked every week until the end of September. The lures were refreshed after 8 weeks.

Tab. 1. Location of the experimental sites in Czech Republic and Poland

Locality	Coordinates	Altitude (m asl)	Year	Number of traps
Zimna Wódka	50°27'N; 18°17'E	280	2000	10
Zimna Wódka	50°27'N; 18°17'E	280	2001	11
Široká Niva	50°04'N; 17°28'E	650	2004	5
Horní Benešov	49°59'N; 17°34'E	650	2004	10
Leskovec	49°53'N; 17°36'E	570	2004	10
Břidličná	49°57'N; 17°24'E	580	2004	10
Bruntál	49°58'N; 17°26'E	590	2004	10
Široká Niva	50°04'N; 17°28'E	650	2005	5
Horní Benešov	49°59'N; 17°34'E	650	2005	10
Leskovec	49°53'N; 17°36'E	570	2005	10
Břidličná	49°57'N; 17°24'E	580	2005	10
Bruntál	49°58'N; 17°26'E	590	2005	10
Pustá Polom	49°49'N; 18°00'E	430	2006	7
Václavovice	49°45'N; 18°21'E	305	2008	12
Pustá Polom	49°50'N; 18°01'E	395	2010	5

In most years, two periods of *I. duplicatus* seasonal flight activity (corresponding with the flight of two generations) could easily be distinguished (Holuša et al. 2006, 2007, 2010a), and only data from those years were analysed. *I. duplicatus* has two or three generations per year with the main peaks of bark beetle emergence in April/May, July, and August/September (Holuša et al. 2003, 2006, 2007, 2010a). The years in which three flight peaks were detected (2002 and 2003), were excluded because it seemed likely that the third peak was caused by either a third generation or by a sister brood. These sister broods (or “re-emerging” beetles) can cause a third peak in flight activity (see Holuša et al.

2003). Because two main peaks were visible (firstly in May, and secondly in July) on all flight activity curves, we divided the numbers of beetles caught during the vegetation season to the overwintered (flight in April–June), and offspring (flight in July–August) generations.

The mean number of overwintered beetles trapped in April–June was regressed on the mean number of offspring beetles trapped in July–August in each locality and year. Data were log transformed and fit by linear regression, and the numbers of individuals captured in each generation were compared by Wilcoxon pair tests in Statistica 9.0.

RESULTS

During the whole trapping period (2000–2010) a total of 291,891 adults were captured. The numbers of beetles captured differed between individual years (tab. 2). Overall the mean numbers of beetles captured in April–June, during the first flight (854.7 ± 681.8 beetles per trap), were significantly higher than the numbers of beetles captured in July–August, i.e. during the second flight (579.0 ± 555.1 beetles per trap) (Wilcoxon pair test; $T = 34$; $Z = 2.01$; $p < 0.05$), although the differences are not significant across all localities and years (tab. 2). The *I. duplicatus* beetles in the overwintered generation (the first flight), represented about 60% of all the beetles trapped in the whole growing season of a given year,

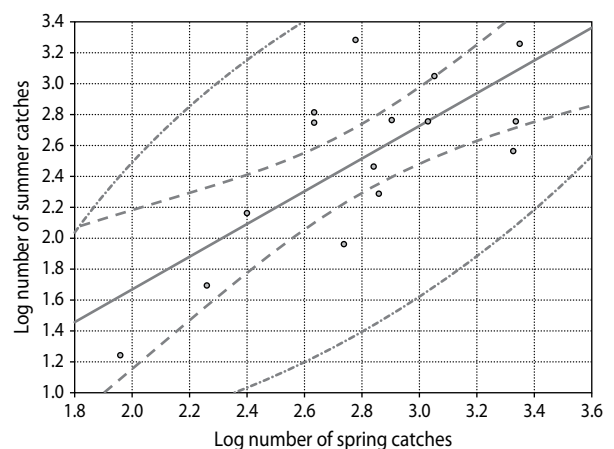


Fig. 1. Correlation between numbers of *Ips duplicatus* trapped in the summer monitoring period (July–August), and the number trapped in spring (April–June) ($y = -0.44 + 1.05x$; $r = 0.74$; $p < 0.01$)

Tab. 2. Number of *Ips duplicatus* beetles captured in individual localities and years, and comparison of April–June and July–August abundances by Wilcoxon pair test (z-values)

Year	Period	Locality	Median	Minimum	Maximum	25%	75%	z
2000	April–June	Žimna Wódka	153	97	341	115	252	3.70***
	July–August		48	13	178	21	68	
2001	April–June	Žimna Wódka	91	48	133	48	133	2.20*
	July–August		18	17	18	17	18	
2004	April–June	Široká Niva	646	62	1755	308	821	2.02*
	July–August		67	10	460	21	420	
2004	April–June	Horní Benešov	1152	120	5795	395	3118	2.19*
	July–August		245	56	1150	100	680	
2004	April–June	Leskovec	625	14	10915	479	4610	1.99*
	July–August		310	37	1324	100	415	
2004	April–June	Břidličná	1248	113	2890	720	1527	2.80**
	July–August		210	10	980	176	560	
2004	April–June	Bruntál	713	236	5570	300	1290	1.07 n.s.
	July–August		980	600	4400	840	1504	
2005	April–June	Široká Niva	360	60	400	70	360	1.10 n.s.
	July–August		105	25	400	75	120	
2005	April–June	Horní Benešov	557	57	1051	247	695	1.58 n.s.
	July–August		275	100	2070	115	445	
2005	April–June	Leskovec	520	43	3480	100	1010	0.76 n.s.
	July–August		863	20	1995	60	1190	
2005	April–June	Břidličná	361	80	2110	160	465	2.55*
	July–August		105	15	850	30	220	
2005	April–June	Bruntál	355	45	1250	275	563	1.60 n.s.
	July–August		485	80	1740	365	790	
2006	April–June	Pustá Polom	453	89	1436	306	726	2.20*
	July–August		68	29	178	39	166	
2008	April–June	Václavovice	1126	547	6909	639	3632	2.67*
	July–August		381	123	1806	226	829	
2010	April–June	Pustá Polom	484	140	2687	390	1898	0.13 n.s.
	July–August		1202	798	1354	1008	1211	

Significance of differences: * – $p < 0.05$; ** – $p < 0.01$, *** – $p < 0.001$, n.s. – not significant.

and this percentage varied in individual localities and years of study (within a range of 50–91%) (tab. 2).

A linear regression between the numbers of beetles trapped in the offspring generation (July–August), and the numbers trapped in the overwintered generation (April–June), was conducted to fit the data (fig. 1). The number of overwintered *I. duplicatus* adults captured in the first flight was correlated with the number of offspring beetles captured in the second flight ($r = 0.74$; $p < 0.01$).

DISCUSSION

The seasonal patterns of captures in *I. duplicatus* appear to be very similar to those of *I. typographus*. The correlation between the number of captured overwintered and offspring beetles in *I. duplicatus* is consistent with data from *I. typographus* (Nef and Janssens 1986; Lindelöw and Schroeder 2001; Faccoli and Stergulc 2004; Grodzki 2007). Additionally the percentage of captured

beetles from the overwintered population (50–91% of the number from the whole year), corresponds with the range of 55–84% reported for bivoltine *I. typographus* populations (Faccoli and Stergulc 2004; Grodzki 2007). Given that each *I. duplicatus* female deposits 46 eggs on average (Karpiński 1935), this drop in capture rate seems unusual. One explanation is that mortality may be higher for the second generation because of the effect of the host tree (Wermelinger 2004); and due to the increased predation of adults, as well as on eggs, larvae, and pupae (Otvos 1979), and the parasitism of immature stages (Weslien and Schroeder 1999; Wermelinger 2002). Beside the supposed impact of natural enemies, the main reason why fewer adults are trapped in the summer than in the spring however, is probably that most bark beetles fly in the tree crowns in summer (Mrkva and Vala 2009, 2010), i.e. they are not attracted by artificial lures from distant traps, located close to the ground.

In any case, the number of *I. duplicatus* adults trapped in the summer (the offspring of the overwintered generation) was correlated with the number of beetles trapped in the spring (the overwintered generation), and very often far fewer adults were trapped in summer than in spring. According to the patterns identified in *I. typographus*, in the case of bivoltine populations, spring captures can be used to determine the threat from beetles during the whole vegetation season (Faccoli and Stergulc 2004; Grodzki 2007). It seems that in the case of bivoltine *I. duplicatus* populations a similar method can be applied. From this point of view the installation of artificial traps in the summer seems to be fruitless. On the other hand, the pheromone traps are considered as an effective tool for monitoring seasonal flight activity in bark beetles (Grodzki 2007), including *I. duplicatus* (Grodzki 1998; Holuša et al. 2003). Facing the difficulties in the control of this pest (especially in the identification of already infested trees), the current information about its flight activity can be very useful in order to define the peaks in captures, reflecting the flight period of a given generation. For this reason it is necessary to install the pheromone dispensers in the summer, when the captures can describe the threat similarly as in the spring. The relationship between the number of *I. duplicatus* trapped and the size of the population is unknown. Because felled trees are not attractive to *I. duplicatus* (Sierpiński 1958), and cannot be

used to monitor or reduce *I. duplicatus* population density, pheromone traps might represent an important tool in monitoring this species (see also Schlyter et al. 2001). Monitoring of *I. duplicatus* with pheromone traps will thus enable forest managers to determine the beginning and end of summer flight activity, indicating the necessity of intensive penetration of spruce stands in order for the timely identification and removal of infested trees, which is very important especially in the areas where multivoltine populations of this species are present.

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