Chamaesphecia nigrifrons new to the Czech Republic (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)

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Summary. During an entomological expedition to the Czech Republic (Moravia) in June 1995, *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911) was observed using synthetic pheromone. Also in western Slovakia, a specimen was captured using this pheromone. The biology of this species is discussed in short. A description of the biotope is given.

Samenvatting. *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* nieuw voor Tsjechië (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae).
Tijdens een entomologische expeditie naar Tsjechië (Moravië) in juni 1995 werd *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911) met behulp van een synthetisch feromoon waargenomen. Ook in West-Slowakije werd een exemplaar op feromoon gevangen. De biologie van deze soort wordt kort behandeld. Er wordt tevens een beknopte beschrijving van de biotoop gegeven.

Souhrn. *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* nová pro Českou republiku (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae)
Během entomologické expedice do České republiky v červnu 1995 byla pomocí syntetických feromonů zjištěna *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911). Jeden exemplář byl chycen I na západním Slovensku. Je krátce diskutována biologie tohoto druhu a připojena charakteristika biotopu.

Résumé. *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons*, une espèce nouvelle pour la République Tchèque (Lepidoptera: Sesiidae).
Lors d'une expédition entomologique en République Tchèque (Moravie) en juin 1995, *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911) a été observée à l'aide de phéromones synthétiques. Un autre exemplaire a été capturé dans l'Ouest de la Slovaquie à l'aide du même phéromone. La biologie de cette espèce, ainsi que le biotope, sont discutés en bref.

Key words: Sesiidae – *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* – Czech Republic – faunistics – distribution.

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When the first author, together with some other Belgian lepidopterists, visited the Czech Republic (Moravia) from 18 to 24 June 1995, he captured a specimen of *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911) on 19.VI.1995 (16h00 PM CET) in the Palava hills at an altitude of 400 m. The animal was attracted by synthetic pheromone, otherwise without showing a preference for one specific pheromone composition. The pheromone lure originated from IPO-DLO, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

The specimen was captured in the vicinity of its foodplant in a xerothermic biotope, located at the base of a south facing limestone slope of the Palava mountain, that, according to the second author, can be considered as very suitable for this species.

Two days later, on 21 June, during a trip to the nearby western part of Slovakia, another specimen of this species was captured 2 km south of Jablonica on a pheromone lure (IPO -DLO, Wageningen, The Netherlands) intended for *Synanthedon vespiformis* (Linnaeus, 1761). The composition of this pheromone is EZ3,13-18:Ac---ZZ3,13-18:Ac (1350 µg + 150 µg). In Slovakia, *C. nigrifrons* was till now only seen in the eastern part (Špatenka & Laštůvka 1983).

Other species belonging to the Sesiidae observed during this expedition were *Paranthrene tabaniformis* (Rottemburg, 1775), *Paranthrene insolita* Le Cerf, 1914, *Synanthedon andrenaeformis* (Laspeyres, 1801), *Synanthedon myopaeformis* (Borkhausen, 1789) and *Chamaesphecia empiformis* (Esper, 1783).

The rhizophagous caterpillar of *C. nigrifrons*, that completes its life-cycle in one year, lives in the root of *Hypericum perforatum*. The presence of a caterpillar can easily be observed by the red-brown "frass" extruding from the base of the stem of an infested plant. Often the stems of these plants break off during winter, leaving a stub where the future emergence hole will be constructed. Strong plants not infrequently contain several caterpillars.

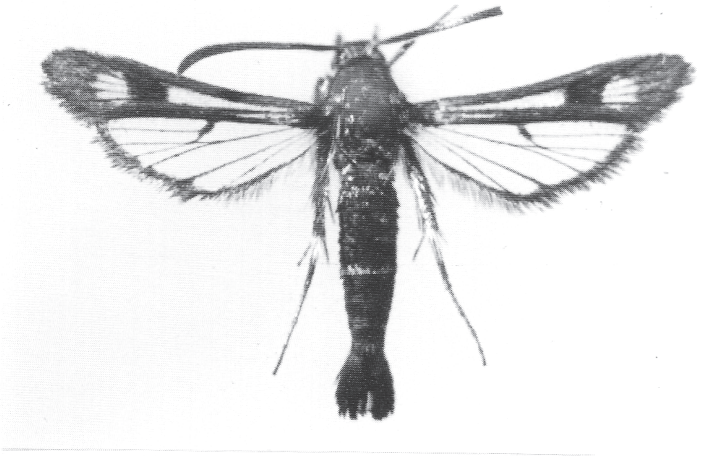

Fig. 1: *Chamaesphecia nigrifrons* (Le Cerf, 1911), Czech Republic, Moravia, Palava hills 400 m, 19.VI.1995, leg. T. C. Garrevoet.

The flight period of this mainly early species ranges from May to the end of July.

The distribution of the species is insufficiently known. At present it is observed in France (+ Corsica), Germany, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, western Turkey, Ukraine (Crimea), and Southern Russia to the Caucasus (Laštůvka & Laštůvka 1995). The Czech Republic can now be added to this list and the occurrence in Slovakia is now extended to the western part of this country.

Acknowledgements

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References

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