

## NEW DATA ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF CUCUJUS CINNABERINUS IN WESTERN ROMANIA

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**Abstract:** *Cucujus cinnaberinus* is a protected species under EU Council Directive 9243EEC, Annex II, IV and Bern Convention Annex II, respectively assessed Near Threatened at European and global level by the IUCN Red List. The paper summarizes observations made during 2016-2023 in the south-western part of Romania both in and outside protected areas.

### • Introduction

At the European level, 453 Natura 2000 sites have been designated for the conservation of the species in 18 EU Member States, of which Hungary accounts for 31.56% of the designated areas. In Romania, even though wooded areas cover almost 28% of the country's territory, in the absence of historical data, the species is protected in only 8 Natura 2000 sites, all of them located along the Carpathian arc with one exception.

### • Material and method

The distribution points of the species were established by direct searches under the bark of dry tree trunks following. Data on tree species, degree of decay and biotop characteristics were collected.



*Cucujus cinnaberinus*, in Apuseni Mountains  
(foto F. Pruanr)

### • Results and discussions

The species is present throughout the mountains and foothills being identified in the Cerna Mountains, Muntele Mic, Metaliferi Mountains, Apuseni Mountains as well as in the hilly or lowland area such as Lunca Mureşului.

### • Conclusions

It is less common under beech bark, but if logs are stored for a long period of time in areas of high humidity near water courses, the species will establish successfully on beech. It is successfully established on *Quercus* sp., *Populus alba*, *Salix* sp. but has also been found on *Juglans regia* or small diameter branches of *Sambucus nigra*. It is necessary to continue the inventory of the species in order to know its distribution areas and protection measures and even to identify new protected areas for the species.