

On the identity of *Quedius limbatus* (Heer) and *Q. limbatoides* Coiffait (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) and their distribution in Fennoscandian countries

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Quedius limbatus (Heer) has long been considered a species common in northern Europe with a distribution that reaches almost to the northernmost Lapland, *TL* in Sweden (Lundberg 1986), *TR* in Norway and *Ok* in Finland (Lindroth 1960). *Quedius limbatoides* Coiff. has not been reported at all although the species was described in 1963.

Lohse (1989) points out the differences between these two species. There is a clear distinction in the male genitalia, especially in the punctuation on the tip of the paramere. Furthermore there is a clear difference in the shape of the body, *Q. limbatoides* being more slender with more flattened elytras than *Q. limbatus*. Thure Palm (1963) characterizes under the name *Q. limbatus* the northern species, the description of which fits well with Coiffauts description of *Q. limbatoides*. The pictures of the genitalia also belong to the latter species.

After checking my own specimens and the specimens in the collections of Mus. Zool. Turku and some private collections I have come to the conclusion that all Finnish specimens belong to *Quedius limbatoides*. This is probably the case

with the other northern countries too and the real *Q. limbatus* is restricted to Central and Southern Europe from Germany and Poland southward. Stig Lundberg has kindly gone through his material of *Q. limbatus* from Sweden and found that all his specimens, as expected, belong to *Q. limbatoides* (Stig Lundberg pers. comm.).

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References

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