

## *Phloeopora opaca* Bernhauer (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae) new to Finland

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During a visit to the Paljakka Strict Nature Reserve Ok: Puolanka (718:55) on 5.7.1991 I found a somewhat unfamiliar *Phloeopora* female specimen in a fallen rotting aspen trunk on the magnificent taiga forest slopes within the park with spruce as the predominating tree mixed with large aspens and birches. The specimen was identified as *Phloeopora opaca* Bernhauer, 1902. My determination has kindly been checked by both Paul Wunderle and Gustav Adolf Lohse. Another typical taiga species was found in the same habitat on *Fomes fomentarius* growing on a fallen birch trunk, namely *Tachinus basalis* Erichson (Staphylinidae).

*P. opaca* belongs to the group of species that have a conspicuous pubescence which on the posterior half of the pronotum is inclined obliquely toward the corners. The pronotum is clearly narrower than the elytras. *P. opaca* differs from the other European species, *P. teres* (Gravenhorst) in the same group by having a clearly visible microsculpture on the pronotum and the uniformly reddish brown to almost black colour of the pronotum and elytras. In the reddish brown form, to which the Finnish specimen belongs, the head and abdomen are somewhat darker. The elytras and abdomen of *P. teres* are clearly differently coloured, the base of both elytra and abdomen being dark, while the hind part of the elytra and the extreme tip of the abdomen are reddish; the pronotum lacks microsculpture. *P. opaca* can be easily distinguished from species of the other group with straight backward pointed pubescence on the posterior half of the pronotum, not only by the pronotal pubescence, but also by, for instance, genital characters. The ♂ genitalia are much more slender than in any other European species (Lohse 1989) and the female spermatheca has a much more elongated and

coiled distal tubulus part than in any other female of this group (Fig. 1).

This is the first time *P. opaca* has been found in northern Europe. It is known from Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Austria (Lucht 1987). According to Lohse (1974) the species is sporadic and rare, being found in the region of Hessen, Mark, Bohemia and eastern Austria. Thus it seems to have a typical boreo-montane distribution. It has so far only been found on *Populus* species (Lohse 1989). Its discovery in Finland extends the distribution of the species more than 1000 km northward, according to the literature at my disposal, but most certainly the species also lives in the Russian taiga. It might well be found elsewhere in eastern Finland in the few remaining climax stage natural forests.

### References

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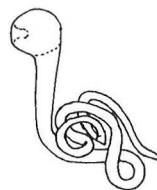


Fig. 1. The spermatheca of *Phloeopora opaca* Bernhauer — Original.