

Licinus depressus (Coleoptera, Carabidae) — a new species for Tavastia Australis – Finland

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In summer 1993 I caught one specimen of *Licinus depressus* (Paykull) in a pitfall trap in Asikkala in a large patch of farmland (6788:415). Fifteen traps were placed in a grid of 3 × 5, with a distance of about three metres from each other, over the period 16 August–30 August in a field temporarily taken out of use. Other species caught from the same place were *Pterostichus niger* (Illiger), *Badister lacertosus* (Sturm), and *Trechus secalis* (Paykull). Exactly a year after the first find, two males and one female of *L. depressus* were caught in pitfall traps in the same place. This time the grid was larger, i.e. 4 × 5 traps. Other carabid species caught in the traps were *Amara aulica* (Panzer), *A. bifrons* (Gyllenhal), *Harpalus rufipes* (Degeer), *H. rufibarbis* (Fabricius), *Calathus melanocephalus* (Linnaeus) and *Trechus secalis* (Paykull); these species were abundant in the area.

According to Brandmayr & Brandmayr (1986), at least the S European *Licinus cassideus* (Dejean), *L. hoffmannseggi* (Panzer) and *L. italicus* (Puel), are highly oligophagous predators of terrestrial gastropods. *L. depressus*, the only representative of the genus in Fennoscandia, is also a specialized snail-eater (Lindroth 1986). The following snail species were found in my pitfall traps: *Nesovitrea hammonis* (Ström), *N. petronella* (Pfeiffer), *Cochlicopa lubrica* (Müller), *C. lubricella* (Porro) and *Vallonia costata* (Müller). These species are rather small, being only 2–6 mm long, and seem to be the main food source for *L. depressus*. Thus, it is possible that the feeding

habits of the carabid more or less restrict the habitats of the species to areas with dry, sandy or gravelly soil, often mixed with clay or chalk, i.e. areas where small snails are common (Lindroth 1986).

In Denmark, *L. depressus* is known only from the Islands of Lolland, Falster, Møn, and Bornholm, but no records are known after 1955 (Bangsholt 1983). In Sweden the species is rare and scattered in the south, and has not been found further north than Västmanland; in Skania and on the islands of Öland and Gotland, as well as in the Mälaren valley, the species is somewhat more common. In Estonia *L. depressus* is restricted to some locations on the Island of Saaremaa and along the northern coast of the country (Haberman 1968).

In Finland the species is very rare, with some old records from the Åland Islands and Kaarina, Kuusisto and later finds from Turku in 1966, and Pargas in 1979 (Lindroth 1949, 1986, Rassi 1993.). The species is not considered endangered in Finland or Sweden (Rassi & Väisänen 1987, Ehnström *et al.* 1993).

My specimens appear to be the northernmost ever found. Since the wings of the species are rudimentary, dispersal from areas where the species is more common is obviously slow (cf. Lindroth 1949, 1986). The discovery in the province of Tavastia extends the distribution of the species more than 100 km north of the previously known range. The finds also indicate that there is a viable population in Asikkala. From the data available, it is impossi-

ble to say whether this is an isolated single population on the Finnish mainland. Chalcareous soils are rare in Finland and if the species is restricted to such places, its distribution must be rather patchy.

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