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14.12 – *Gonipterus scutellatus* Gyllenhal 1833 - Eucalyptus snout beetle (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Cyclominae)

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Description and biological cycle: Medium-sized weevil species (12–14 mm), grey to brown with a light transverse band on the elytra and pale brown hairs (*Photo left- adult on eucalyptus branch*). This species is morphologically very similar to another Australian eucalyptus weevil, *G. gibberus*, invasive too but not present in Europe at this time. Hosts are different *Eucalyptus* species. The weevil has several generations per year (generally two in southern Europe). The adults emerge from the soil and feed on leaves (*see Figure 8.2.6 in Chapter 8*) and growing shoots. Throughout their life, females lay several egg batches protected by brown capsules on surfaces of young leaves (overall fecundity of a female is about 150–300 eggs). Yellowish-green larvae feed on leaves (*Photo right- larval damage*) and twigs, then fall on the ground and pupate in the soil. Overwintering occurs in the adult stage.

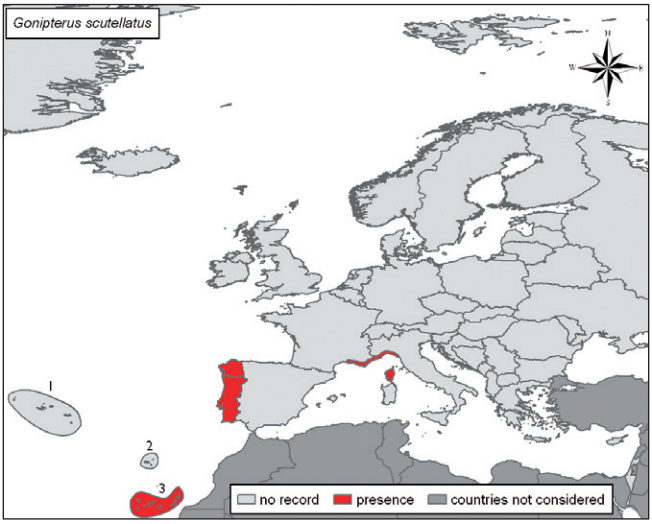
Native habitat (EUNIS code): G2- Broadleaved evergreen woodland.

Habitat occupied in invaded range: G2- Broadleaved evergreen woodland; G5- Lines of trees, small anthropogenic woodlands; I2- Cultivated areas of gardens and parks; X- parks and gardens.

Native range: Southeastern Australia.

Introduced range: Progressively introduced in all places where eucalyptus have been introduced: USA, South America, Western Australia, New Zealand, China, South and East Africa. In Europe, the Eucalyptus snout beetle was first recorded in Italy in 1990 and then in other Mediterranean countries (*Map*).

Credit: Alain Roques



Pathways: Adults, eggs and larvae can be transported with live eucalyptus; larvae and pupae can be transported with soil. The adults can fly to disperse locally; adult may hitch-hike, e.g. on vehicles.

Impact and management: This weevil is an important eucalyptus pest in all areas where it has been introduced. Adults and especially larvae damage eucalyptus leaves, mainly young ones. Larvae characteristically damage only one surface of leaves, while adults chew the edge. Defoliation causes growth reduction, and even tree mortality in case of successive severe damage. Young trees are generally the most damaged. Susceptibility depends of *Eucalyptus* species; in Europe, the commonly planted *E. globulus* is one preferred host. Chemical control is not recommended due to side effects on honey bees often visiting eucalytus flowers. Biological control has been successfully achieved in several world and European countries using the Australian chalcid *Anaphes nitens* (Girault 1928) (Hymenoptera, Mymaridae), an egg parasitoid.

Selected references

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