

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STUDY OF SAPROXYLIC BEETLES  
(INSECTS: COLEOPTERA) FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

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The paper includes the first analysis of saproxylic beetles stored in 4 entomological collections in Chisinau city, as well as own materials collected between 2005 and 2022 from the reserves Codrii, Plaiul Fagului, Pădurea Domnească and Prutul de Jos, landscape reserve Codrii Tigheci, Hârbovăț, Telița and some forest protection curtains in different country's districts.

As a result of investigation in the Republic of Moldova, were revealed 318 species of saproxylic beetles belonging to 212 genera and 44 families. Of these, 151 species are xylophagous, 57 polyphagous, 48 zoophagous, 40 mycophagous and 22 species are attributed to saprophagous, lichenophagous, parasitoid, phytophagous and coprophagous groups. Most of analyzed species are widespread: Palaearctic (80 species), Western Palaearctic (73), European (66), followed by Holarctic (21), Euro-Caucasian (19), Euro-Siberian (17) and cosmopolitan (14) species. The other 17 species are Mediterranean, Eurasian, Trans-Palaearctic and Near-Arctic.

The wide diversity of saproxylic insect species in forest ecosystems is an indicator of the state of the quality of the environment and also reflects the level of its functioning. For their development, saproxylic species require decaying wood. In the Republic of Moldova, forest management includes the evacuation of dead wood, most of which is removed from forest ecosystems, as a result, the number of saproxylic beetles in recent years has decreased dramatically.

According to the IUCN classification, only 14 species of saproxylic beetles are protected in the Republic of Moldova, of which 7 are critically endangered (CR), 2 endangered (EN) and 5 vulnerable (VU).

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