

Altica viridula – forest pests in Iran

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Altica viridula mass reproduction outbreaks have been found in deciduous forests at 2000 m above sea level on the Elbrus range slopes (Iran). The study identified that the outbreak area was around 2.0 thousand ha in the Kordkoy region (Gorgan province).

The phytophage affected foliage of 2 hornbeam species eastern or black hornbeam *Carpinus orientalis* Miller, 1788 and *C. schuschaensis* Winkler, 1904. Larvae actively fed in June-July damaging crowns severely. However defoliation level didn't exceed 70–80 % in the studied outbreaks. That enabled the trees recovery and foliage restoration by vegetation period end. Отмеченные повреждения являются первым указанием на возможность массовых размножений грабового блохака. Это определяет необходимость детального изучения биологии этого фитофага и разработки методов биологической защиты.

Keywords: *Altica viridula*, hornbeam, deciduous forests