Original article

EDN LWTBNJ
DOI 10.24419/LHI.2304-3083.2026.2.09

Willow Mining Beetle – the only Mass Dendrpohilic Species of the Genus *Trachys*

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Abstract. *The article examines the phenomenon of the formation of outbreak foci of the willow mining jewel beetle (Trachys minutus Linnaeus, 1758) (Coleoptera, Buprestidae), the only widespread dendrophilous pest species within the extensive genus Trachys. It has been established that the first outbreak foci of this beetle were recorded in the Republic of Bashkortostan in 1976, and since then their area has been steadily increasing, reaching 26.7 thousand hectares at present. A comparative analysis of the proportion of widespread pest species within the genera Lymantria and Dendrolimus is provided, amounting to 7.8% and 2.8%, respectively, whereas within the genus Trachys, only one species (less than 0.2%) is a widespread pest. The uniqueness of the situation is noted, whereby the polyphagous Trachys minutus forms persistent outbreak foci only in one part of its range and predominantly on small-leaved lime (Tilia cordata). It is observed that the species' biology and the factors contributing to outbreaks remain insufficiently studied. The results of the study indicate the urgent need for detailed research into the ecology of the willow mining jewel beetle and the development of measures to protect forest and urban plantings.*

Key words: *willow mining beetle (Trachys minutus), mass reproduction, pest foci, lime tree (Tilia cordata), forest entomology, Bashkortostan.*

For citation: *Ivanov V. Willow Mining Beetle – the only Mass Dendrophilic Species of the Genus Trachys. – Text : electronic // Forestry Information. 2026. № 2. P. 97–103. DOI 10.24419/LHI.2304-3083.2026.2.09. https://elibrary.ru/lwtbnj.*

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