

Host plants of *Baris spitzyi* Hochhuth and *B. nesapia* Faust (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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Tripolium vulgare Nees, a halophilous Asteraceae, was found to be host plant of *Baris spitzyi* Hochh. in the middle Volga area and in the Transurals. For the closely related *Baris nesapia* Fst., *Artemisia marschalliana* Spreng. is added as host plant to the previously known *A. absinthium* L. and *A. campestris* L.

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In the summer 1999, long series of *Baris spitzyi* Hochh. were taken from halophilous *Tripolium vulgare* Nees (Asteraceae) in the southern Ul'yanovsk Province by A.Yu. Isaev and in the western Kurgan Province by R.V. Filimonov. No host plant was previously known for this species. The only available information on its biology was that reported by Dieckmann (1988) after personal communication by B.A. Korotyaev who collected *B. spitzyi* in two salt flat localities in the North Caucasus dominated by "Artemisia sp. with pale leaves" (actually, *A. santonica* L.). No further collecting by B.A. Korotyaev on this species of *Artemisia* has ever provided material on *B. spitzyi*, but *Tripolium vulgare* is common and sparsely distributed in the N Caucasus in the habitats where *B. spitzyi* was found (Galushko, 1980: 167). So, the species is probably monophagous on *T. vulgare*. The plant is flowering unusually late, in late August – September, which may partly explain rare and poor collecting from it. In Ul'yanovsk Province, the

plant was first recorded in the expedition of 1999, which also provided *B. spitzyi*.

The closely related *B. nesapia* Fst. is oligophagous on *Artemisia*. In addition to *A. campestris* L. (in Central Europe) and *A. absinthium* L. (in Tajikistan), *A. marschalliana* Spreng. was found in 3 localities in NW Caucasus to be its host plant.

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References

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