

A correction to the published record of *Atheta boletophila* (Thomson, 1856) in Worcestershire (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae) with notes on its ecology

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There is nothing unusual about the requirement to correct publication errors; the specialist entomological literature is heavily punctuated by them. In the present case reference to *Atheta boletophila* (Thomson, 1856) in Worcestershire (Whitehead, 2006) needs to be expunged from the published record, thus creating better alignment with Bryan & Anderson (2014) and with knowledge across Europe generally where *A. boletophila* is often considered to be a rare species. (https://portal.nature.cz/publik_syst/nd_nalez-public.php?idTaxon=3492)

Tergite 8 (T8) of male *A. boletophila* (01) and male *Atheta* (*Dimetrotina*) *laticollis* (Stephens, 1832) are not dissimilar and the published example of *A. boletophila* (Whitehead, 2006) is a male *A. laticollis*. However this matter is predicated by problems surrounding the identity of some examples resembling *A. laticollis*. British specimens resembling that species submitted by the writer to Dr Vladimir Gusarov in 2017 remain unidentified pending further research.



01. Male *Atheta boletophila* (Thomson, 1856) with tergite eight detached, Badinsky Prales, Slovakia, 14 June 1999. Paul Whitehead.

Atheta boletophila is rarely illustrated. The male depicted here (01) is from a sporophore of the arboreal fungus *Cerioporus squamosus* (Huds.) Quél. (Polyporaceae) growing on Beech *Fagus sylvatica* L. at Badinsky Prales, Slovakia (Bublinec & Pichler, 2001) on 14 June 1999. The fauna of *Atheta* spp. on this sporophore proved diverse extending to five species of the subgenus *Atheta* including *A. britanniae* Bernhauer & Scheerpeltz, 1926, two species of the subgenus *Datomicra* including *A. putrida* (Kraatz, 1856), one species of the subgenus *Microdota*, *A. subtilis* (Scriba, 1866), one species of the subgenus *Tetropla*, *A. liturata* (Stephens, 1832) and one species of the subgenus *Traumoecia*, *A. picipes* (Mulsant & Rey, 1847).

Badinsky Prales is an outstanding example of primary montane Abies-Fagus woodland at ca800 m a.s.l. with annual precipitation of 950 mm and snow cover on ca150 days per year. This athetine fauna is therefore of boreal affinity noting that Klimaszewski et al. (2021) include *A. subtilis* in their Arctic and Subarctic ecozone faunas. It seems unlikely that *A. boletophila* might occur in Worcestershire.

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References

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Images

01. Male *Atheta boletophila* (Thomson, 1856) with tergite eight detached, Badinsky Prales, Slovakia, 14 June 1999. Paul Whitehead.