

First Record of One Genus *Amphicerus* (Le Conte) and Species *bimaculatus* (Olivier) (Coleoptera :Bostrichidae) in Iraq.

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### Abstract

The results of this study report *Amphicerus bimaculatus* as a new record for Iraqi fauna. In fact both the genus and species of this beetle are reported for the first time in Iraq. Diagnostic characters and some other informations are given for both.

**Key word:** *Amphicerus, bimaculatus*, first record.

تسجيل اول لكل من الجنس *Amphicerus* Le Conte والنوع *bimaculatus* Olivier (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae) في العراق

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### المخلص

بينت نتائج هذه الدراسة ان الحشرة *Amphicerus bimaculatus* سجلت لأول مرة في الفونا العراقية, وفي الحقيقة ان تسجيلها كان للمرة الاولى لكل من الجنس والنوع, وذكرت الصفات التشخيصية ومعلومات اخرى لكل منهما.

الكلمات المفتاحية: *Amphicerus* و *bimaculatus* وتسجيل لأول مرة.

### Introduction

Bostrichids are commonly known as powder-post beetles, because of ability of the larvae to reduce sapwood, particularly of hardwood, into powdery frass, hence the beetles are of considerable economic importance to forestry and the wood-using industries (Rai and Chatterjee, 1963). The species *Amphicerus bimaculatus* Ol. is widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean region Europe, Africa and Asia minor. One specimen was intercepted at New York 1938 in dried roots from Turkey. (Fisher, 1950). In New Zealand was recorded as a pest of vitis (Ministry for primary industries standard , 2012). Known insect pests of pomegranate in Greece including grape borer beetle, *A. bimaculatus*. (Tasgkarakis, 2012). The largest harmfulness of *A. bimaculatus* observed in vineyard of south-costal and south-western parts of Crimea (Ukraina). (Liebiediev, 2008). *Schistoceros bimaculatus* regarded as noxious insect in Israel, the larvae developed sometimes in the stem and branches of living plants (Halperin and Domoisean, 1980). *A. bimaculatus* like apple twig borer *A. bicudatus* Say may damage orange trees as well as other fruit trees and grape vines in California Coachella valley. Adult borrow 2.5-7.5 cm in to the orange twig, starting at crotch or bud axil, frequently causing the twig to break or die.

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The beetles are usually not sufficiently abundant to cause serious damage. (Essig, 1926). *S. bimaculatus* is one of many species of insect have been found attacking grape vines in Azerbaizhan. (Khalilov, 1972). *Sch. bimaculatus* attack decaying stocks and penetrate at bud level to lay eggs there, the larvae bore longitudinal galleriea in pith but the damage infected is never very important. (Bournier, 1976). This study has been carried out in a pomegranate orchard in Khalis Directorate (about 11 km north of Baquba city in Diyala Province in 2012. Unknown insect was collected from dry branch of a pomegranate tree. The insect has been identified by Dr. H. S. Al-Asady (College of Education University of Baghdad) and Dr. R. S. Augul (Iraq National History Research Center and Museum) as *Amphicerus bimaculatus* (Olivier) 1790 (Coleoptera; Bostrichidae) according to the letter from the Iraq National History Research Center and Museum No. 293 dated 16\3\2014.

It is important to mention that this is the first record to both of genus *Amphicerus* Le Conte and species *bimaculatus* Olivier in Iraq.

### Diagnostic Characters

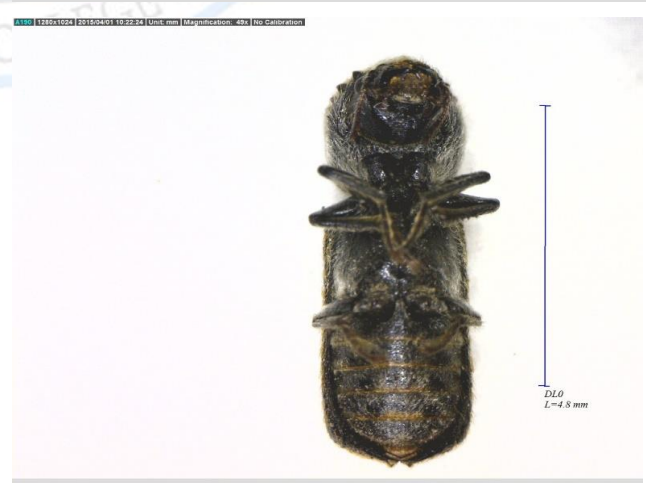
Genus *Amphicerus* Le Conte; the descriptions below are based on those of Chujo (1958). Antenna is 10 segmented with 3 terminal segments strongly dilated. Pronotum subquadrate, strongly rounded at sides, widest a little behind middle, front border gently emarginate, front corners forming distinctly reflexed horn-like projections, lateral borders not ridged, basal corners obtuse, dorsum strongly convex, more or less pubescent, covered with scale- like structure on lateral areas and also on base half of disc, but coarsely dentate on middle of anterior half, several denticles at sides of anterior area especially strongly developed, reflexed, arranged in longitudinal series and contacted to horn- like projection of front corners with foremost denticle of this series,. Elytron elongate parallel- sided rounded posteriorly, coarsely punctured, with exception of humerus which is free from distinct punctures and somewhat elevated, strongly declined behind apically with strong projections or obtuse elevations on upper half of lateral border. In males, horn- like projections at front corners of pronotum are present which are much stronger than those of the females, elytron with 2 pairs of distinct projections at side of apical declivity. In females, the body is hairier than in males and often coloration of hairs is deeper, elytron sometimes with one or two obtuse elevation at side of apical clivity. *Amphicerus (Schistoceros) bimaculatus* (Olivier); the descriptions below are based on those of Fisher (1950).

Male; elongate, cylindrical, uniformly black and brownish black. In addition the antennae, palpi and tarsi brownish yellow. Head is much narrower than pronotum, slightly flattend, behind eyes, densely, finely granulose over entire surface, with fine, longitudinal, parallel carinae on occiput, densely clothed with long, erect, yellowish hairs on clypeus and front of head, clypeus nearly flat, coarsely, sparsely punctate, smooth along anterior margin, clypeal suture not distinct, labrum, finely densely punctate, first segment of antennal club, subtriangular, produced an outer side at apex, eyes small transvers. Pronotum quadrate rounded on front, widest near middle, strongly deflexed anteriorly, sides very broadly rounded, the apical angles rounded and unarmed, surface coarsely imbricate-punctate on basal

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half, coarsely sparsely tuberculate anteriorly, the tubercles broad semierect, and rather acutely rounded at apices, densely, irregularly clothed with semierect, yellowish hairs between tubercles on apical half, with a large patch of long, recumbent, white pubescence concealing the surface, at each side on basal half, scutellum densely clothed with moderately long, erect, yellowish hairs. Elytron at base, subequal in width to pronotum at middle, sinuate at base each elytron with a short. Arcuate spine of top of apical declivity, and a small tooth at apical angle of sutural margins, sutural margins slightly elevated on apical declivity, sides vaguely expanded posteriorly conjointly broadly rounded at apices, margins not elevated but crenulate, toward apices, surface coarsely, sparsely very irregularly punctate, more or less rugose, irregularly clothed with rather dense patches of moderately long, recumbent yellowish hairs, the reliefs smooth and shining. Body beneath is finely, densely punctate, densely clothed with long, recumbent, and white hairs. The female; differs from the male in having the apical declivity of the elytra coarsely, densely, irregularly granulose, each elytron with a round callosity at the top of the apical declivity, and in not having a small tooth at the apices of the elytra. In both males and females the body length 5-11 mm, width 2-3.2 mm.



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