

## Species Diversity of Coleoptera (Insecta: Coleoptera) Damaging Saxaul (Chenopodiaceae: Haloxylon spp.) in the Deserts Area of South-East Kazakhstan

**Authors :** B. Mombayeva

**Abstract :** In the deserts area of south east of Kazakhstan, 16 species of Coleoptera from 6 families and 12 genus of insects damaging Saxaul have been revealed. The vast number of species belong to the Cerambycidae family Capricorn Beetle (4 species) and Hemlock Borer of *Melanophila* genus and 3 species of weevils and flea-beetles, and 1 species of coctsinelids and carrion beetle. Some of them cause appreciable harm, and sometimes very heavy damage to saxaul. According to food specialization they are divided into polyphages and - oligophages. According to the confinement to saxaul parts, registered beetles insects mainly feed on generative parts (11 species) and leaves (5 species). 9 species from them feed on roots, leaves and generative organs. They are scarablike beetle's larvae (*Apatophysismongolica* Semenov., *Turmenigenavarentzovi* Melg., *Phytoecia* (*Opsilla*) *coerulescens* Scopoli., *Apatophysismongolica* Semenov.), Jewel beetles (*Julodis* (s. Str.) *Variolaris* (Pallas), *Sphenoptera* (s. Str.) *cuprina* Motschulsky, *S.* (s. str.) *exarata* (Fischer), *Sphenoptera* *potanini* Jak.) and some weevil (*Barisartemisiae* Hbst.). The larvae eat the roots and the imago - generative organs. Their feeding noticeably has its effect on the condition of saxaul. Beetles also slightly gnaw vegetative organs of plants. Among the harmful species the desert Capricorn Beetle *Julodisvariolaris* (Pallas) deserved attention. Its larvae live in the soil and cause harm to the roots of Saxaul and other pasture plants. In addition, the larvae of *Sphenoptera* *potanini*, *S.punctatissima* colonize the roots, trunk and branches of *Haloxylon*. In the spring Saxaul flowers are much damaged by Ladybeetle *Bulaelichatchovi*.

**Keywords :** saxaul, coleoptera, insecta, haloxylon

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