

## Note on the presence of *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen, 2010 in the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)

A. Seguna, A. Catania, J. J. Borg & P. Sammut

### Summary

The genus *Clavigesta* Obraztsov, 1946 and the species *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen, 2010 are recorded for the first time from the Maltese Islands.

KEY WORDS: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, *Clavigesta gerti*, new records, Maltese Islands.

### Nota sobre la presencia de *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen, 2010 en Malta (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae)

### Resumen

El género *Clavigesta* Obraztsov, 1946 y la especie *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen, 2010 se registran por primera vez para Malta.

PALABRAS CLAVE: Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, *Clavigesta gerti*, nuevo registro, Malta.

### Introduction

TREMATERRA & SAMMUT (2007) recorded no less than 68 species of Tortricidae from the Maltese Islands. SAMMUT (2020) increased their number to 73 species, adding *Cydia aldocataniae* Trematerra, 2019, *Cydia rymarczyki* Varenne & Nel, 2013, *Cydia blackmoreana* (Walsingham, 1903), *Aethes rubiginana* (Walsingham, 1903) and *Cnephasia heringi* Razowski, 1958.

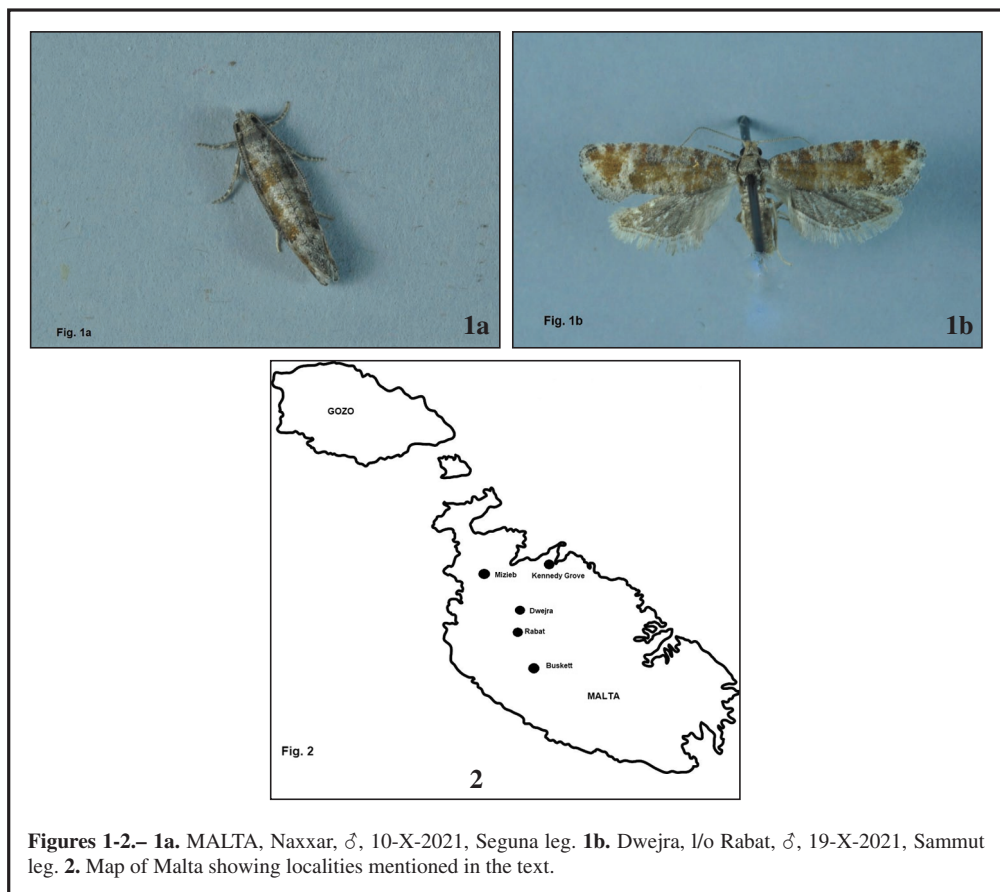
The genus *Clavigesta* Obraztsov, 1946 contains four species, all occurring in Europe and their larva bores inside the pine *Pinus* sp. needles. Two species, *Clavigesta tokei* Larsen and *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen have been described in 2010 (LARSEN, 2010), and these have a much wider European distribution. In the checklist by SAMMUT (2020), *Clavigesta* should be placed after *Rhyacionia* Hübner, [1825], and before *Cydia* Hübner, [1825].

Material examined: MALTA, Dwejra l/o Rabat, (35° 54' 21"N; 14° 22' 52"E, 200 m.), 5 ♂♂, 19-X-2020, A. Catania leg.; 28 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 19-X-2021, leg P. Sammut, A. Catania, A. Seguna and J. J. Borg leg; Naxxar, (35° 54' 35"N; 14° 26' 29"E, 108 m.), 1 ♀, 23-IX-2021; 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 8-X-2021; 5 ♂♂, 10-X-2021; 2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 12-X-2021; 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀, 14-X-2021; 2 ♂♂, 15-X-2021; 7 ♂♂, 16-X-2021; 5 ♂♂, 20-X-2021; 3 ♂♂, 22-X-2021. All specimens from Naxxar collected by A. Seguna.

The material examined was mostly collected using a 15W. Actinic light. However, a small percentage was attracted to 250W MV light. The collecting site at Naxxar is a residential area with some mature and fully grown *Pinus halepensis* Mill. planted for landscaping. On the other hand, the

Dwejra site is in open, karst countryside with a small wood of mature Pine trees. Unfortunately, when the population from Naxxar was discovered and identified, the flight period of the species was nearing its end so we could not verify if it occurred also in other places where pine trees are present, such as at Buskett, Mizżieb, Kennedy Grove and various other localities. A detailed survey of these sites will be carried out in the future.

*Clavigesta gerti* is known to occur in Spain, the Balearic Islands, Corsica (LARSEN, 2010) and Sicily (K. Larsen com. pers.). As with the Type material, also here in Malta a very large proportion of the examined material consisted of male specimens, with a total of 63 specimens compared to five females. However, from two females collected from Naxxar, one of the authors (AS) obtained ova which hatched after about three weeks and at the time of writing they were still feeding of pine needles.



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