Occurrence of species of the genus *Pityophthorus* Eichhoff (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Scolytinae) in the province of Quebec, Canada

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Abstract

Twig beetles in the genus *Pityophthorus* Eichhoff, 1864 include more than 300 species worldwide, with maximum diversity in tropical and subtropical regions. To date, approximately 50 species of *Pityophthorus* have been recorded in Canada, and these species are associated mainly with coniferous trees. Since 1981, no comprehensive study on this difficult taxonomic group has been conducted in Quebec, Canada, most likely due to their limited significance as forest pests. Based on data gathered from five years of field sampling in conifer seed orchards and compiled from various entomological collections, the distribution of *Pityophthorus* species in Quebec is presented. Approximately 291 new localities were recorded for the *Pityophthorus* species. Five species-group taxa, namely *P. puberulus* (LeConte, 1868), *P. pulchellus pulchellus* Eichhoff, 1869, *P. pulicarius* Zimmermann, 1868, *P. nitidus* Swaine, 1917, and *P. cariniceps* LeConte & Horn, 1876 were the most widespread. In contrast, *P. consimilis* LeConte, 1878, *P. intextus* Swaine, 1917, *P. dentifrons* Blackman, 1922, *P. ramipera* Swaine, 1917, and *P. concavus* Blackman, 1928 display a notably limited distribution. In addition, the first distribution records of *P. intextus* and *P. biovalis* Blackman, 1922 are furnished, and the subspecies *P. murrayanae murrayanae* Blackman, 1922 is reported from Quebec for the second time. Moreover, distribution maps are provided for all *Pityophthorus* species recorded in the province of Quebec.
Keywords
Distribution, fauna, locality, Quebec, records, twig beetle

Introduction
Twig beetles in the genus *Pityophthorus* Eichhoff, 1864 include approximately 386 species distributed worldwide (Bright 1981; Bright and Skidmore 1997, 2002; Wood and Bright 1992) with 218 species found in North and Central America (Bright 1981; Wood 1982), and approximately 55 other species found in South America (Wood 2007). More than 70% of the *Pityophthorus* world fauna is distributed in North, Central, and South America. Wood (2007) notes that the genus *Pityophthorus* has an American origin and displays its maximum diversity in subtropical and tropical areas. A vast majority of the North and Central American species of this genus breed in twigs of coniferous trees (Bright 1981; Wood 1982), whereas the South American species breed predominantly in deciduous trees (Wood 2007).

Excluding the taxonomic works, twig beetles have received little attention from the scientific community and forest managers simply because these organisms generally colonize declining trees or tree parts. They are often found in thin-barked parts of stressed or weakened trees, and they are rarely associated with extensive epidemics in forest ecosystems (Furniss and Carolin 1977). Nevertheless, some reports have indicated that several *Pityophthorus* species may become problematic and cause medium to severe damage in coniferous plantations (Rappaport and Wood 1994; Stevens et al. 1979). Furthermore, twig beetles may vector pathogenic fungi. For example, pitch canker disease of Monterey pine, *Pinus radiata* D. Don, is caused by wounding and transmission of a fungal pathogen to twigs during feeding by a complex of *Pityophthorus* sp. in California (Dallara 1997; Hoover et al. 1996; Sakamoto et al. 2007). In a Monterey pine plantation in Spain, approximately 25% of the analyzed population of *Pityophthorus pubescens* (Marsham) was responsible for carrying the spores of *Fusarium circinatum* Nirenberg and O’Donnell, which is the fungus that causes pitch canker disease (Romón et al. 2007). More recently, Kolařík et al. (2011) reported that another *Pityophthorus* species, the walnut twig beetle, *P. juglandis* Blackman, is an important vector of the fungus *Geosmithia morbida* (M. Kolařík, E. Freeland, C. Utley and Tisserat 2011). This complex causes thousand cankers disease, which is a serious necrosis of the phloem of walnut trees, *Juglans* sp., in the United States (Seybold et al. 2013). The walnut twig beetle has expanded its range considerably in the U.S. (Cranshaw 2011; Seybold et al. 2012), which may explain the recent attention that the disease has attracted from the forest management community (Seybold et al. 2013).

The species of the genus *Pityophthorus* are difficult to identify with morphological techniques. Both sexes are often required for accurate identification at the species level (Bright 1981; Wood 1982, 2007). Taxonomic revisions of this genus in North America have been published by LeConte and Horn (1876), Swaine (1918), and Blackman (1928). Wood (1978) placed the genus *Pityophthorus* into the Corthylini and the
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Pityophthorina (subtribe). The *Pityophthorina* are closely related to *Araptus* Eichhoff, 1872 whose species are found mainly in Mexico, Central, and South America (Wood 2007; Wood and Bright 1987, 1992). A major contribution to the knowledge of the *Pityophthorina* was provided by Bright (1981), who published a taxonomic monograph in which more than 220 species from Central and North America were described and classified.

In Canada, approximately 50 species of *Pityophthorus* have been recorded (Bright 1968; Bright 1971, 1976, 1981; Bright and Skidmore 1991, 1997, 2002; Bright et al. 1994; Wood and Bright 1987, 1992). In the province of Quebec, Canada, 17 species have been reported (Bright 1976, 1981; Bright and Skidmore 1997, 2002; Laplante et al. 1991; McNamara 1991; MRNQ 2008). However, no comprehensive and up-to-date study has been performed on the genus *Pityophthorus* in Quebec since the publications of D.E. Bright.

The purpose of this article is to update the distribution of all recorded *Pityophthorus* species in the province of Quebec, Canada. The species records are based on data collected from several entomological collections and on our own field-trapping data obtained during the last five years (2008–2012). A study of the distribution of *Pityophthorus* species is highly important, particularly in ecological and biological studies on different species and for further taxonomic revisions of this difficult bark beetle group. This study also provides background information for researchers working with exotic forest insects and for forest managers.

**Methods and conventions**

This article is based on data obtained from *Pityophthorus* specimens collected exclusively in the province of Quebec, Canada. Two different sources of data were used: field captures performed between 2008 and 2012 and a survey of public and private entomological collections.

*Field collection methods.* The field data included in this article were collected over a period of five years (2008–2012) from trapping activities conducted in six different seed orchards scattered from west to east over diverse types of landscapes in the province of Quebec (Table 1). These seed orchards are composed mainly of white pine, *Pinus strobus* L., but also contain specimens of red pine, *Pinus resinosa* Ait. and jack pine, *Pinus banksiana* Lamb., as well as white spruce, *Picea glauca* (Moench) Voss, red spruce, *Picea rubens* Sargent, and black spruce, *Picea mariana* Miller, Briton, Sterns & Poggenburg.

Two types of trapping techniques were used in the study sites. The first trapping technique employed “Yellow Japanese Beetle” (YJB) traps (Trécé Inc., Adair, Oklahoma, United States) equipped with 500-ml Mason® jars. Each jar was filled with 50 ml of propylene glycol to kill and preserve the trapped insects. The YJB traps were baited with a polyethylene “bubble cap” release device (Contech Enterprises Inc., Delta, British Columbia, Canada) that contained (+) trans-pityol (release rate of 0.2 mg/day). Pityol is an aggregation pheromone component of several *Pityophthorus* species...
The population monitoring of *Pityophthorus* species in the six seed orchards was performed starting in 2008 and ending in 2012. The biological material was collected with an average frequency of twice a month from mid-April to the end of September.

A second trapping technique was used to increase the chance of capture of other *Pityophthorus* specimens that may not respond to synthetic pityol alone as an attractant. Twelve-unit Lindgren funnel traps were used to monitor *Pityophthorus* populations in three of the six previously mentioned seed orchards, namely Verchères, Huddersfield and Cleveland (Table 1). The Lindgren traps were placed at a density of approximately three traps per hectare and were baited with (±) trans-pityol and UHR ethanol (200 mg/day, Synergy Semiochemicals Corp., Burnaby, British Columbia). Ethanol is an attractant for large number of bark and ambrosia beetles (Miller and Rabaglia 2009). Lindgren traps were equipped with plastic trap cups filled with 50 ml of propylene glycol. The cups were emptied at the same frequency as described in the previous trapping technique. The field-collected *Pityophthorus* specimens were preserved in 70 % ethanol and subsequently mounted and pinned. All of the captured specimens originating from field trapping are preserved in the INRS-Institute Armand-Frappier (INRS-IAF) entomological collection. The species identification was performed according to morphological criteria by using a Discovery V-20 stereomicroscope (Carl Zeiss Canada Ltd.) equipped with an ICC3 video camera. Pictures of the identified and unidentified *Pityophthorus* species are available at the following web address: www.profs.inrs.ca/cguertin/ZOOKEYS_2013/MENU.html.

The field data were complemented with information gathered from six public and two private entomological collections. In this article, the following acronyms are used for the public entomological collections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seed orchard</th>
<th>Nearest locality</th>
<th>Geographic coordinates (decimal degrees)</th>
<th>Area (ha)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huddersfield</td>
<td>Fort-Coulonge</td>
<td>45.9215; -76.6219</td>
<td>9.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorion</td>
<td>Lac Cayamant</td>
<td>46.0459; -76.2828</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verchères</td>
<td>Saint-Amable</td>
<td>45.6773; -73.3303</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>Saint-Claude</td>
<td>45.6764; -71.9954</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aubin-de-l’Ile</td>
<td>Saint-Simon-les-Mines</td>
<td>46.2089; -70.6780</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cap-Tourmente</td>
<td>Cap-Tourmente</td>
<td>47.0680; -70.8076</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**ECLU** Entomological Collection, Laval University, Québec, QC, Canada;
**LEMU** Lyman Entomological Collection, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada;
**ROUM** Robert-Ouellet Entomological Collection, Montreal University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

The acronyms used for the private entomological collections are the following:

**CCC** Claude Chantal’s Collection, Varennes, QC, Canada
**CLC** Claire Lévesque’s Collection, Sherbrooke, QC, Canada

The following two additional acronyms are also employed in this article:

**SLWC** S.L. Wood entomological collection. Although this collection was not directly examined, some *P. laetus* Eichhoff specimens captured in the province of Quebec are deposited there. Even though the specimens have not been examined, these are included in the article as reliable records that were published by Bright (1981).

**INRS-IAF** Entomological collection of the INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier, Laval, QC, Canada. All specimens collected during the field trapping activities are deposited in this collection.

Approximately 50 % of the specimens analyzed in this study belong to MRNQ entomological collection. In general, to capture bark beetle specimens, the “Ministère des Ressources naturelles du Québec” (MRNQ) uses permanent sampling stations dispersed in all representative types of forest ecosystems and landscapes across the province of Quebec.

*Other conventions and symbols.* The distribution record for each of the *Pityophthorus* species mentioned in this article is displayed using the following sequences: 1. Name of the locality where the specimen was captured. In some cases, instead of the name of the locality, the historic territorial administrative name may appear (e.g., “Township”), because no locality name has been assigned to the sampling area. 2. Name of the Regional County Municipality (RCM) to which the cited locality belongs. Regional County Municipalities have delineated the province of Quebec territory since 1979. Many localities in Quebec that are situated in different geographic areas have received the same name. To avoid any confusion relative to the locality names, the corresponding RCM is included. 3. Date of capture. If the capture date is missing or it is unreadable on the label, a question mark is included. 4. Number of examined specimens and the acronym of the entomological collection to which they belong. These data are included within parentheses and separated by a comma. 5. Name of host tree species, displayed in italics. In some cases, the host tree data are missing.

The five abovementioned sequences are separated by commas. Locality records are separated by semicolons (;). If a species was recorded many times in the same locality,
the various dates of capture are separated by a slash symbol (/). For each mentioned species, the distribution data are presented in a manner that previous literature records are separated from the new records to highlight the originality of the article. The general distribution of each species in Canada is presented at the end of each species record. The following abbreviations were used for the provinces and territories: YT-Yukon Territory, NT-Northwest Territories, NU-Nunavut, BC-British Columbia, AB-Alberta, SK-Saskatchewan, MB-Manitoba, ON-Ontario, QC-Quebec, NB-New Brunswick, PE-Prince Edward Island, NS-Nova Scotia, and NF & LB-Newfoundland and Labrador. The distribution records of all *Pityophthorus* species in Canada are presented according to Bright (1981), McNamara (1991), Wood and Bright (1992), and Bright and Skidmore (1997). The distribution of each *Pityophthorus* species was mapped by using the ARCGIS and ARCMAP software starting from an EXCEL database, which is available at the following web link: www.profs.inrs.ca/cguertin/ZOOKEYS_2013/MENU.html

**Results**

To date, the following 17 *Pityophthorus* species have been recorded in the province of Quebec, Canada:

*Pityophthorus lautus* Eichhoff, 1872  
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_lautus  
Fig. 7

Records from Bright (1981). Aylmer, Communauté-Urbaine-de-l’Outaouais, 14-VIII-1920, (3, CNC); Wakefield, Les Collines-de-l’Outaouais, 11-V-1951, (19, SLWC), *Rhus typhina*; *Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue*, Montréal, ?, (10, CNC) / 2 individuals who supposedly originated from the same samples were found at LEMU and display an unreadable label.

New records. Montréal, 14-V-1936, (9, ECLU); Mont Saint-Hilaire, La-Vallée-du-Richelieu, ?, (1, LFRC), Mont Saint-Bruno, La-Vallée-du-Richelieu, ?, (1, LFRC).  
Distribution in Canada. NT, ON, QC, NB, NS.

*Pityophthorus pulicarius* (Zimmermann, 1868)  
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_pulicarius  
Fig. 3

Records from Bright (1981). Chelsea, Les Collines-de-l’Outaouais, 20-VI-1917, (6, CNC); Grand-Remous, La-Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, 17-VIII-1978, (2, LFRC), *Pinus banksiana*; Wychwood, Communauté-Urbaine-de-l’Outaouais, 21-VI-1917, (2, CNC); Pointe à David, La-Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, 2-VI-1975, (1, LFRC), Pi-
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nus banksiana; Lac Louvicourt, La Vallée-de-l’Or, 1-IX-1978, (2, LFRC), Pinus banksiana; Moffet, Témiscamingue, 16-VIII-1978, (2, LFRC), Pinus banksiana; Rivière-aux-Rats, Le Haut-Saint-Maurice, 14-VII-1978, (1, LFRC), Pinus banksiana; Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montréal, ?, (1, CNC).


Distribution in Canada. SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS.

Pityophthorus nitidus Swaine, 1917
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_nitidus

Fig. 4

Records from Bright (1981). Tullochgorum, Le Haut-Saint-Laurent, 20-IX-1910, (2, CNC); Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montreal, ?, (2, CNC); Saint-Gabriel-de-Rimouski, La Mitis, 8-VII-1970, (6, CCC), Picea glauca.

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Distribution in Canada. NT, YT, AB, BC, ON, QC, NB, NS, NF & LB.

Pityophthorus intextus Swaine, 1917
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_intextus
Fig. 9


Distribution in Canada. BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS, NF & LB.
Pityophthorus pulchellus pulchellus Eichhoff, 1869
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_pulchellus_pulchellus

Fig. 2


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Figure 3. Map of *Pityophthorus pulicarius* (Zimmermann) records in Quebec, Canada.

Distribution in Canada. YT, NT, BC, AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB.

*Pityophthorus cariniceps* LeConte & Horn, 1876
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_cariniceps
Fig. 5

Records from Bright (1981). Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montréal, 17-VIII-1910, (1, CNC), Pinus sp.; L’Île Perrot, Vaudreuil-Soulanges, various dates, (42, CNC) / 4 specimens supposedly originating from the same samples were found at LEMU, *Pinus* sp.; Old Chelsea, Les Collines-de-l’Outaouais, 23-VI-1966, (14, CNC), *Pinus strobus*; Wychwood, Communauté-Urbaine-de-l’Outaouais, 2-VI-1917, (5, CNC), *Pinus resinosa*.

Occurrence of species of the genus *Pityophthorus* Eichhoff...


**Distribution in Canada.** AB, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS.

*Pityophthorus biovalis* Blackman, 1922
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_biovalis

Fig. 6

INRS-IAF), Dosquet, Lotbinière, 20-V-1972, (1, CCC); Saguenay, Le Fjord-du-Saguenay, 6-VIII-1984, (1, CCC), Pinus banksiana.

Distribution in Canada. ON, QC, NS.

Pityophthorus carinatus carinatus Bright, 1978
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_carinatus_carinatus
Fig. 9


Distribution in Canada. QC, NB.

Pityophthorus balsameus Blackman, 1922
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_balsameus
Fig. 7


Distribution in Canada. NT, ON, QC, NB, NS.
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*Pityophthorus briscoei* Blackman, 1922
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_briscoei
Fig. 6


**Distribution in Canada:** ON, QC, NB.

*Pityophthorus concavus* Blackman, 1928
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_concavus
Fig. 8


**Distribution in Canada.** ON, QC, NB, NS.

*Pityophthorus ramiperda* Swaine, 1917
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_ramiperda
Fig. 9


**Record from Paquin and Dupéré (2001).** Jamésie, 15-VI-1997, (1, LEMU), *Picea mariana*.


**Distribution in Canada.** ON, QC, NS.

*Pityophthorus opaculus* LeConte, 1878
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_opaculus
Fig. 8


Occurrence of species of the genus *Pityophthorus* Eichhoff...


**Distribution in Canada.** YK, NT, AB, BC, SK, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS, NF & LB.

**Pityophthorus dentifrons** Blackman, 1922
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_dentifrons

Fig. 7


**Distribution in Canada.** AB, ON, QC, NB, PE, NS, NF & LB.

**Pityophthorus puberulus** (LeConte, 1868)
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_puberulus

Fig. 1

**Records from Bright (1981).** Kazabazua, La Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, 24-VIII-1966, (3, CNC), *Pinus banksiana*; Campbell’s Bay, Pontiac, 24-VI-1978, (1, CCC); Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Montréal, ?, 1910, (15, CNC), *Pinus* sp. / one specimen.

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**Figure 6.** Map of *Pityophthorus biovalis* Blackman and *P. briscoei* Blackman records in Quebec, Canada.
supposedly originating from the same samples was found at LEMU; **Sainte-Marie-de-Beauce, La Nouvelle-Beauce**, ?-VIII-1975, (6, LFRC), *Pinus banksiana*.

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Figure 7. Map of Pityophthorus balsameus Blackman, P. dentifrons Blackman and P. laetus Eichhoff records in Quebec, Canada.

Distribution in Canada. ON, QC, NB, NS.

Pityophthorus consimilis LeConte, 1878
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_consimilis
Fig. 10

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**Distribution in Canada.** AB, BC, MB, SK, ON, QC, NS.
**Pityophthorus murrayanae murrayanae** Blackman, 1922
http://species-id.net/wiki/Pityophthorus_murrayanae_murrayanae

Fig. 10


New records. Fort-Coulange, Pontiac, various dates in the period 2008-2012, (1005, INRS-IAF), Pinus banksiana; Lac Cayamant, La-Vallée-de-la-Gatineau, various dates in the period 2008-2012, (60, INRS-IAF), Pinus banksiana; Lac Villebois, Jamésie, 14-IX-2006, (1, MRNQ), Pinus banksiana.

Distribution in Canada. NT, AB, BC, MB, ON, QC, NB.

**Discussion**

A total of 21,690 specimens of *Pityophthorus* originating from nine entomological collections were analyzed. A total of 291 new localities in Quebec, Canada were recorded for the 17 identified species. The most widespread species in the province of Quebec is *P. puberulus* with 72 records, followed by *P. pulchellus pulchellus* with 62 records, then by *P. pulicarius* with 40 records, *P. nitidus* with 34 records, and *P. cariniceps* with 33 records.

*P. puberulus* displays a typical northeastern distribution in North America. This twig beetle breeds in various species of *Pinus*, as well as *Abies* and *Picea* (Bright 1981). All *P. puberulus* specimens examined in the province of Quebec were found only on *Pinus* sp., particularly on *Pinus strobus* and *Pinus resinosa* and rarely on *Pinus sylvestris* and *Pinus banksiana*. Accordingly, the distribution of *P. puberulus* in Quebec is positively correlated with the distributions of *Pinus strobus* and *Pinus resinosa*. *P. puberulus* is also a very abundant species, and thousands of specimens may be collected during a field trapping season. Sixty-nine new distribution records are presented for this species in Quebec. According to Deyrup and Kirkendall (1983), *P. puberulus* reproduces exclusively parthenogenetically at least in part of their distribution area, which may explain their high abundance. Nevertheless, Bright (1981) described the male of this species.

*P. pulchellus pulchellus* is one of the most widespread species in North America (Bright 1981). The specimens of this species captured in Quebec were found on different pine species, although mainly on jack pine, *Pinus banksiana*. It is highly likely that the lack of occurrence in the northern area of Quebec may be determined by the lack of samples above 51°N. Fifty-eight new locality records are presented for this species in Quebec.

*P. pulicarius* displays a distribution that is predominantly toward the western area of the province. This species was found in thirty-three new localities in Quebec. The specimens were collected principally on *Pinus banksiana*, as well as *Pinus strobus* and
Pinus resinosa. P. pulicarius may be an aggressive species that attacks living twigs of different species of pine (Craighead 1950).

P. nitidus is a species that is widespread in North America throughout the northern coniferous forest (Bright 1981). This species breeds in different species of Pinus and Picea. In Quebec, this species is distributed predominantly along the Saint-Lawrence River through Anticosti Island, which is the easternmost record (Fig. 4). Thirty-one new records are presented for this species in Quebec.

The distribution of P. cariniceps is confined to the southern and, specifically, the southeastern areas of Quebec. Two focal regions of occurrence may be detected for this species in Quebec: the first one is located in Gatineau Valley and the second stretches along the Saint-Lawrence River (Fig. 5). Twenty-nine new distribution records are provided for this species in Quebec. Bright (1981) recognized two types of morphological variation of the female frons and male declivity across the North American distribution area: “canadensis form”, which is more frequent within the boreal populations, and “cariniceps form”, which predominates in the southern populations. The specimens of P. cariniceps analyzed from the province of Quebec displayed both previously mentioned forms and an extreme variation of the “cariniceps form” with a strong and sharp elevation of the female frons. P. cariniceps, P. biovalis, P. carinatus carinatus, P. balsameus, P. briscoei, and P. concavus compose the “cariniceps group”. All of these species within the “cariniceps group” are identified mainly according to characteristics of the female frons. However, a significant morphological variation of female frons could be detected in each of the species belonging to this taxonomic group. These variations are sometimes so large that they may lead to misidentification. Therefore, a taxonomic revision of the “cariniceps group” through a combination of their morphological and molecular traits is required.

Several species of Pityophthorus occurring in Quebec, Canada display a narrow distribution across the territory. These include P. consimilis with 6 records, P. ramiperda and P. intextus with 5 records, and P. dentifrons and P. concavus with only 4 records each.

P. consimilis is a rare species in Quebec. Only one new provincial record is presented in the western part of Quebec. The species is also rare in the province of Nova Scotia with only one record (Majka et al. 2007a) and it is absent in other Maritime provinces of Canada (Majka et al. 2007a; Majka et al. 2007b).

P. ramiperda is a very rare species with a limited distribution in the eastern part of North America. This species was initially reported in Canada only in Ontario and Quebec by Bright (1981) and was relatively recently found in the province of Nova Scotia (Majka et al. 2007a). Three new locality records are provided in the province of Quebec for this species, which was most recently cited by Paquin and Duperré (2001) in the Jamésie Regional County Municipality. This record is the northernmost distribution point of P. ramiperda in North America (Fig. 9). This species was previously captured only on white pine, Pinus strobus. However, in the northern part of Quebec territory, the species has been captured in a Picea mariana stand far beyond the northern distribution limit of Pinus strobus in the province. Consequently, it is highly likely that P. ramiperda breed in other coniferous species and not just in white pine. This hypothesis remains to be confirmed.
P. intextus was first mentioned in Quebec by Laplante et al. (1991) and later in a publication of the Ministère des Ressources Naturelles du Québec (MRNQ 2008), but no locality records were provided. In the taxonomic monograph published by Bright (1981), this species was not mentioned as present in Quebec. We present five new localities for P. intextus in Quebec, and these provide the first reliable distribution data for this species. A closely related species, P. cascoensis, which is known to be found in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, Ontario, Newfoundland and Labrador has never been reported in Quebec (Bright 1981; Bright and Skidmore 1997, 2002; Wood and Bright 1987, 1992). According to the distribution in Canada, this species should also be found in Quebec.

P. dentifrons displays a predominantly southeastern distribution in North America. It is also a species with scarce representation in Quebec. Only three new locality records are provided.

P. concavus has an eastern North American distribution, as reported by Bright (1981). Although Wood and Bright (1992) mention some records from British Columbia, the data do not appear to be reliable because no specimen originating from this Canadian province is inventoried in CNC. This species is rare in Quebec. Three new records are included in this article, and these constitute the only records of this species since its first mention in the province. No other specimen has been recaptured recently.

The distributions of P. lautus, P. biovalis, and P. murrayanae murrayanae display some peculiarities:

P. lautus is a species found in mixed and deciduous forests in Quebec and displays a typical southern distribution. The reduced number of locality records in Quebec may be somewhat explained by the placement of the sampling stations, which were located predominantly in coniferous stands. Consequently, the distribution of this species that we report across the province could be underestimated.

P. biovalis, similarly to P. intextus, was mentioned by Laplante et al. (1991) and in the publication of Ministère des Ressources Naturelles du Québec (MRNQ 2008), but no locality records are provided. Thus, we consider all nine locality records as new for the province of Quebec.

P. murrayanae murrayanae provided a very interesting case. This subspecies was first recorded in Quebec by Paquin and Dupéré (2001) in the Jamésie Regional County Municipality, which is also the northernmost mentioned distribution record in Quebec. Three new locality records are provided in this paper for P. murrayanae murrayanae, and these represent the second report of this subspecies in Quebec. According to its actual provincial distribution, P. murrayanae murrayanae is found only in the northwestern area of Quebec (Fig. 10). Ten specimens from the CNC collection belonging to this subspecies were verified for morphological variation. Specimens from Alberta (3 specimens), British Columbia (3 specimens), Ontario (2 specimens), and New Brunswick (2 specimens) were analyzed. We observed a slight variation in the dimensions of the granules of the elytra declivity. The specimens with west Canadian occurrence display larger granules, whereas the specimens originating from New Brunswick harbor very small granules. The size of the granules on the declivity may
also vary among sexes. Another variable morphological character in *P. murrayanae* is related to the pubescence of the female frons (Bright 1981). However, this morphological variation occurs within a population (location) and not necessarily between different locations within the full distribution of the species.

The field samples gathered between 2008 and 2012 in the province of Quebec allowed us to identify some interesting specimens (three specimens) that could not be assigned to any known *Pityophthorus* species. Despite our increased sampling effort, no other similar specimens were recaptured. Further studies will be needed to confirm if novel *Pityophthorus* species could be described or these are simply morphological anomalies.

**Conclusions**

1. More than 30 % (17 species) of the *Pityophthorus* fauna recorded in Canada is found in Province of Quebec.
2. In general, the our reported distributions of all *Pityophthorus* species in Quebec may be biased by the locations of our permanent sampling stations, which were positioned exclusively in conifer seed orchards and predominantly along the primary river valleys and major roads. The greatest number of distribution points is concentrated along the Saint-Lawrence River and Gatineau Valley. The actual positions of the permanent sampling stations in Quebec are principally connected with the timber industry. Future sampling campaigns should be organized above 51°N to obtain a more realistic overview of the distribution of *Pityophthorus* in Quebec.
3. Diverse types of forest ecosystems, as well as the north-south temperature gradient may potentially shelter more than 17 *Pityophthorus* species. Further studies will be needed to increase the knowledge on the fauna and taxonomy of this twig beetle group in Quebec, Canada.

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Occurrence of species of the genus Pityophthorus Eichhoff...


