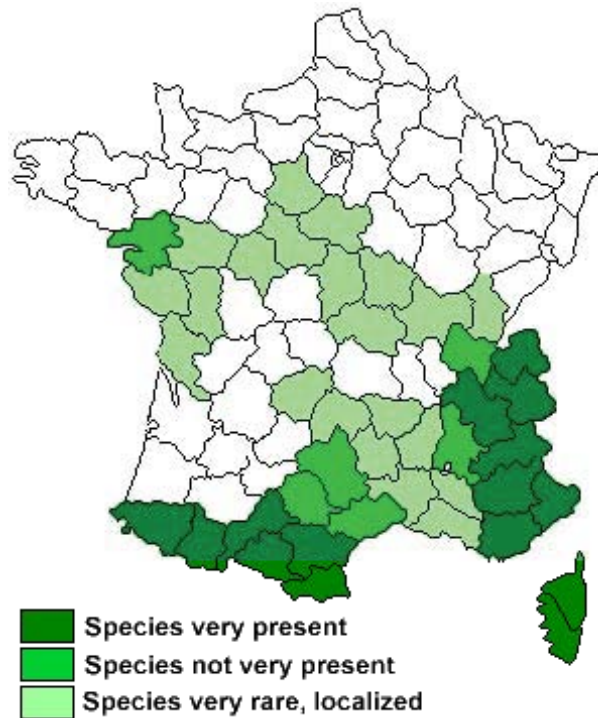


# The Rosalia longhorn beetle

by Patrice BONAFONTE \*

The Rosalia longhorn beetle, or *Rosalia alpina* Linné 1758, is a beautiful beetle of the family Cerambycidae, or Longhorn beetles. It is a totally protected species at the national level (decree of 22-VII-1993) and at the European level: it is listed in Appendix II of the Bern Convention, and in Appendixes II (species of community interest whose conservation requires the designation of special areas of conservation) and IV (species of community interest that require strict protection) of the Habitats Fauna-Flora Directive. The European Directive "Habitats, Fauna, Flora", more commonly known as the Habitats Directive, has applied to the European Union since June 5th 1994. Its purpose is to ensure the maintenance of biological diversity through the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora. The Habitats Directive provides for the establishment of a network of protected areas called the Natura 2000 Network.

The species is nevertheless quite common in mountain beech forests (Alps and Pyrenees), and it can also be found in the plain where it is however generally localized. And, amusing anecdote, its larvae are often burned in large quantities with firewood by the very people who are supposed to protect it: the patrimonial agents (formerly forest guards).



The beech is its favorite tree but the Rosalia can develop in other species (willow, walnut, chestnut, alder, ash, lime, more rarely oak).

The size of the adult is very variable, from 20 to 40 mm, and so is its coloration. The development of the larvae, which dig galleries in the wood to feed, seems to last 3 years, and the galleries are relatively superficial. The attacked trees are most often dying, or even dead on the ground. The adults emerge from June to July depending on the region and altitude.



## Stamps issued

Twenty countries (plus the United Nations) have issued a stamp depicting *Rosalia alpina*, even countries like Cambodia, Somalia or Togo which have certainly never seen a single *Rosalia* living on their territory!



POLAND 1961



CZECHOSLOVAKIA 1962



BULGARIA 1964



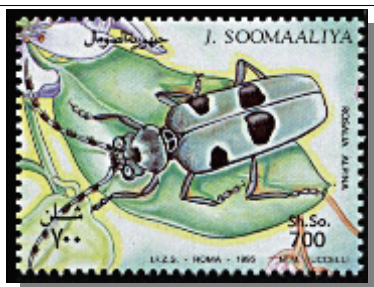
YUGOSLAVIA 1966



GERMANY 1993



ROMANIA 1993



SOMALIA 1995



TOGO 1996



CAMBODIA 1998



MACEDONIA 1998



SWITZERLAND 2002



HUNGARY 2002



SERBIA and MONTENEGRO 2004



CROATIA 2005



AUSTRIA 2009



UNITED NATIONS 2009



SLOVENIA 2009



POLAND 2013



MOLDAVIA 2019



BULGARIA 2020



BOSNIA SERBIAN  
REPUBLIC 2023

Croatia has also issued a booklet of 10 stamps:

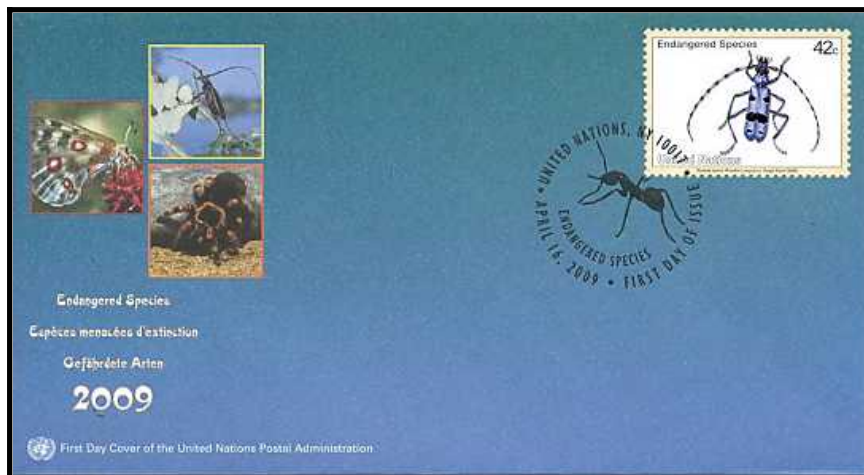
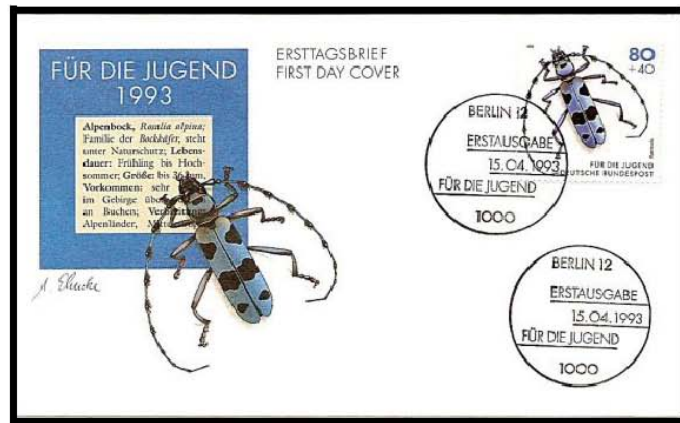
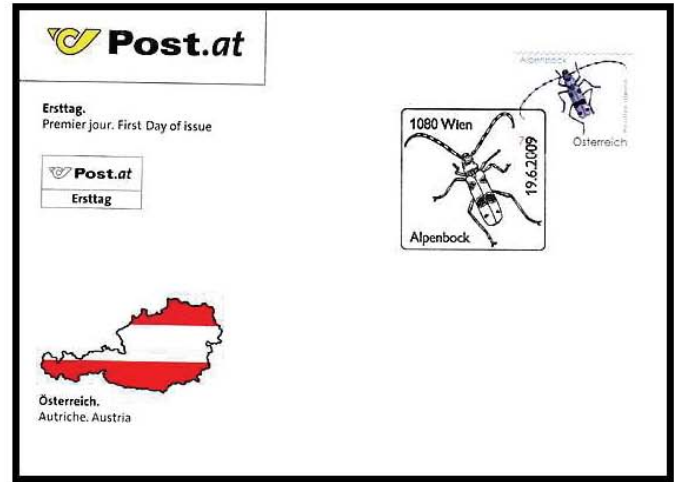
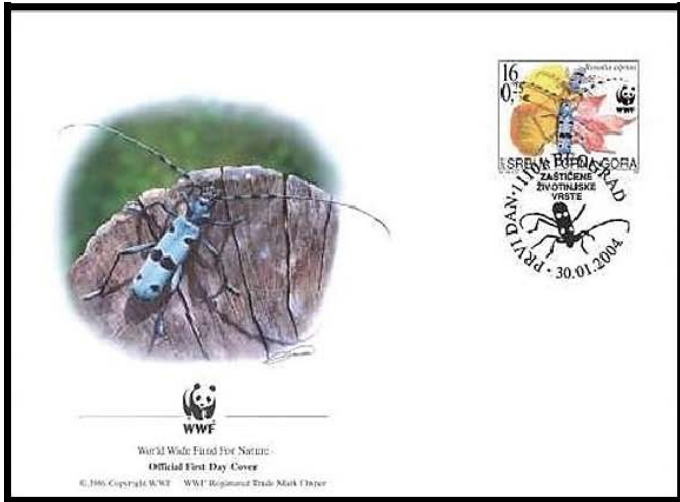


Illegal issues can also be found, usually made to deceive collectors. Below two blocks from Congo and Timor. No doubt that the same printer made these two blocks...



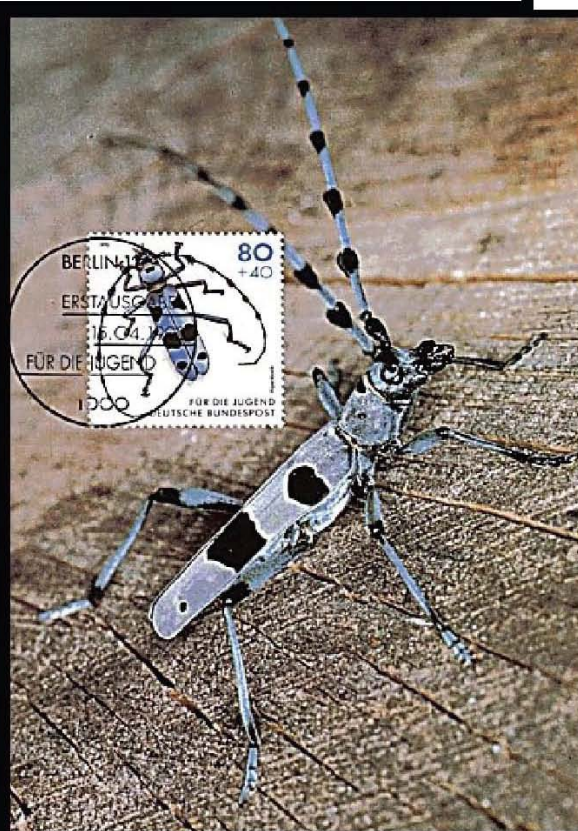
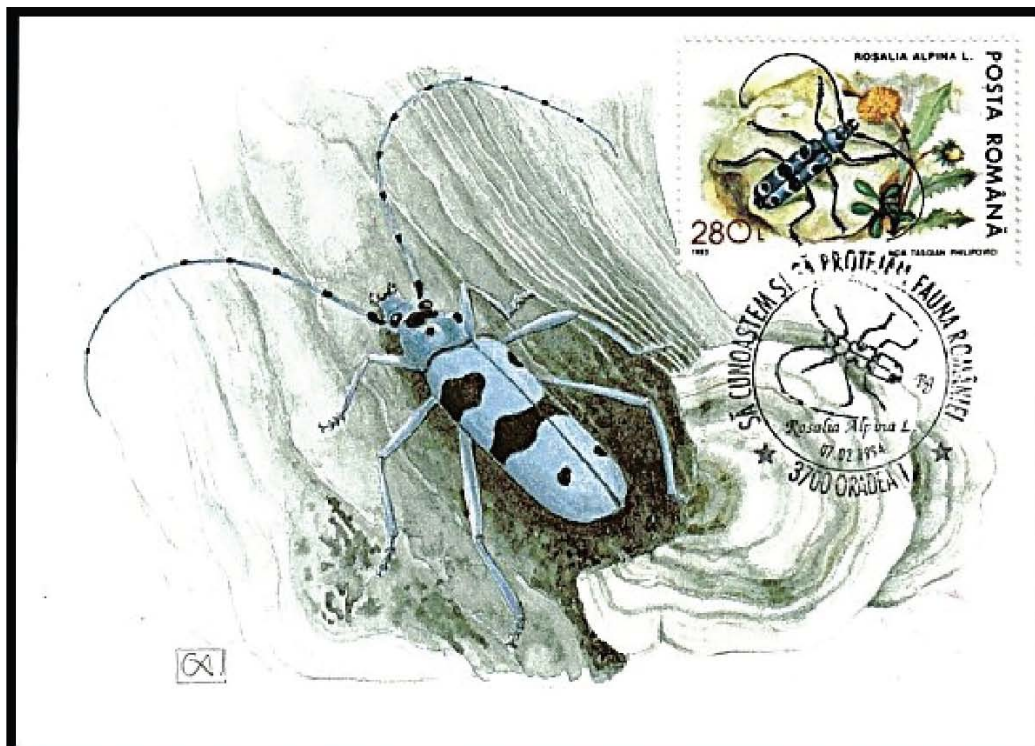
# The First Day Covers

Hereafter three FDCs from Germany, Serbia and Austria with matching illustration and postmark.



## Maximum cards

Hereafter two maximum cards from Romania, with matching postmarks of course, on the occasion of an issue about the protection of the Romanian fauna. But there are many others, like this card from Germany.



## Postal stationery

To my knowledge, the only stationeries related to *Rosalia alpina* are those issued by Ukraine and Germany:



## The postmarks and meters

In addition to the stamps used for the first days, here are some cachets related to *Rosalia*. I don't know of any meters related to it, which doesn't mean that there aren't any.



And to finish, a nice envelope from Switzerland for France:



and a beautiful illegal issue from Djibouti in 2017 :





## Phone cards

And even if it has nothing to do with philately, just for the pleasure of the eyes a phone card from Switzerland.



## Coins

And even if it has nothing to do with philately, just for the pleasure of the eyes, coins with *Rosalia*.



Hungary, 2015



Russia, 2012



Slovakia, 2001



Slovakia, 2015