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Short manual for the function „map module“ on kerbtier.de

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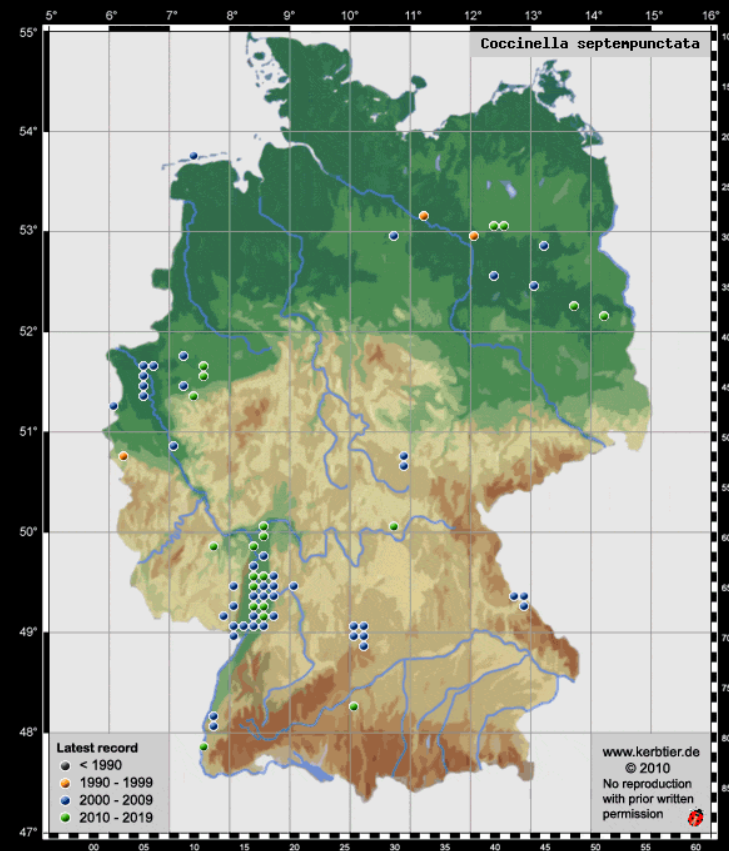
1. Introduction

The kerbtier.de map module allows to display distribution maps for the beetles of the German fauna.

The map display is based on the grid of the German ordnance map TK25 („Messtischblatt“). That implies, that the records displayed are normalized to quadrants about 10 x 10 kilometer in size. The map module is based on a SQL database and contains the year of the latest discovery as well.

The map module is a long-term joint project.

With close to 7000 beetle species and 2940 map sheets of the TK25, a very large theoretical number of 20 millions of records results for such a project. In reality, it is estimated that around 5 million records would give a fairly complete overview of the German beetle fauna. To collect such a number of records is only possible, if a large number of persons, professionals but also hobbyists and laypersons contribute their records to this project.





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2. Accessing maps and the map module

1.) Display the distribution map for a certain species:

All photo overviews on kerbtier.de display a small green map symbol on the right of the species name. Just click the symbol to display a distribution map of the species. Javascript must be enabled, and the map will be displayed as a popup.

2.) Accessing the map module

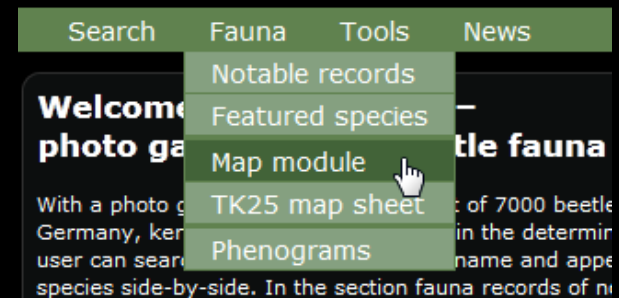
The map module can be accessed under the following address:

<http://www.kerbtier.de/cgi-bin/enFundort.cgi>.

This module allows to search for species by scientific name or name fragments. There are also species included which are currently not contained in the photo overviews of kerbtier.de Furthermore, the number of species and records is displayed and a list of contributors is available for download.



click





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3. Search and display maps

- (1) Enter species name or name fragment, e.g. "Bembidion" or "rufipes"
- (2) Start searching for species
- (3) All matches are displays in this scrollbox. By clicking a species name, the distribution map is displayed
- (4) Records are color-coded by latest year of discovery
- (5) Clicking a record displays ordnance map sheet number and name
- (6) Statistical data / downloads

Search (name fragment, >2 chars):

1 2

Matches:

3

- Bembidion tiuviatile
- Bembidion fumigatum
- Bembidion geniculatum
- Bembidion gilvipes
- Bembidion guttula
- Bembidion humerale
- Bembidion incognitum
- Bembidion inustum
- Bembidion incolor
- Bembidion lampros
- Bembidion litorale
- Bembidion lunulatum
- Bembidion mannerheimii
- Bembidion maritimum
- Bembidion milleri
- Bembidion millerianum
- Bembidion minimum
- Bembidion modestum
- Bembidion monticola
- Bembidion nigricorne
- Bembidion nomannum
- Bembidion obliquum
- Bembidion obtusum
- Bembidion octomaculatum
- Bembidion pallidipenne
- Bembidion properans
- Bembidion punctulatum
- Bembidion pygmaeum
- Bembidion quadrimaculatum
- Bembidion quadripustulatum
- Bembidion ruficollis
- Bembidion savatile
- Bembidion schuppelii
- Bembidion semipunctatum
- Bembidion stephensi
- Bembidion stomoides
- Bembidion striatum
- Bembidion tenellum
- Bembidion testaceum
- Bembidion tetracolum
- Bembidion tetragrammum
- Bembidion tibiale
- Bembidion varium
- Bembidion velox

4

5

Ordnance map sheet: -

6

Records:	24.413
Species:	3.182
Contributors:	50
Data pool:	

Overview for Google Earth

List of species for Excel

List of contributors

Development over time



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4 Contribute data – but how?

4.1 Who can contribute? What should be considered?

Everybody can contribute data, regardless of whether you are a professional, a beetle enthusiast or a layperson. The kerbtier.de map module draws its lifeblood particularly from the contributions of people from all over Germany.

Despite all efforts to reach a database as large as possible with regard to species and areas covered, the scientific minimum standards in the determination of the species must not be ignored.

Therefore all potential contributors of data should ask themselves the following questions:

- Is my determination of the species sufficiently reliable?
- Is my determination verified by an independent expert? (by inspection of a specimen? in a internet forum?)
- Do I have a proof of the record if required, e.g. a specimen or a good photo of the recorded beetle?

If you can answer all these questions with “yes”, you’re ready to submit your data to the kerbtier.de database. On the following pages you’ll find a description how to do it.



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4.2 Submission of data

To add a record to the kerbtier.de faunistics database, the following information is required:

- Name and first name of the contributor
- Scientific name of the species
- Number of the map sheet of the German ordnance map, where the specimen has been discovered
- Year of discovery

The internal structure of the database looks as follows:

Species name	Map sheet number	Year	Contributor ID
Absidia rufotestacea	7415	2009	M0002
Absidia schoenherri	6743	2007	M0007
Absidia schoenherri	7315	2009	M0001
Acalles aubei	6514	2010	M0001
Acalles camelus	6518	2008	M0001
Acalles commutatus	4115	2006	M0002
Acalles commutatus	6818	2008	M0001

The closer the format of the submitted data is to the above example, the easier it'll be to include the data in the faunistics database. Every contributor will get a unique identifier, which will be saved with her/his records.



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4.2.1 As Excel workbook

The best way to submit data is as a Excel workbook, which contains the data in the structure shown on the previous page. The Excel template can be downloaded from kerbtier.de. This method is best suited for professionals, which have a large number of well-determined specimen and would like to submit a larger number of records.



Download

4.2.2 As plain text file

The data can be also submitted as a plain text file. The data should be structured in the following way:

Coccinella septempunctata;2010;7244

Adalia decempunctata;2009;6312



Download

4.2.3 As Word file with a photo of the specimen

This method is especially suitable for laypersons, who are not 100% sure about their determination. Simply add photo thumbnails (400 x 400 px) to the word template.



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The filled templates can be sent by email to adm2@kerbtier.de.



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5 Working with the German ordnance map TK25

All records in the kerbtier.de map module are normalized to the grid of the German ordnance map 1:25.000 (TK 25), formerly known as “Messtischblatt”.

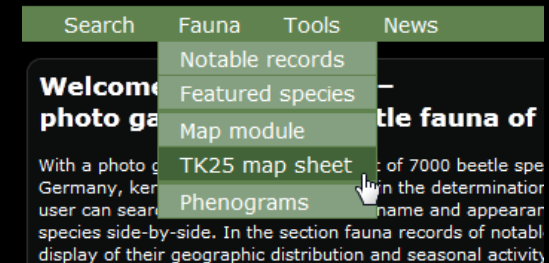
A map sheet of the ordnance map is approximately 10 x 10 km in size. All map sheets have a unique number and bear the name of the main city within the map sheet. The normalization offers several advantages:

- A grid of 10 x 10 km is sufficient for general-purpose faunistics
- The number of required records in the database is limited, hence is easier to handle
- For very rare and endangered species, the exact place of discovery is not disclosed

To submit a beetle record to the kerbtier.de faunistics database, the map sheet number of the place of discovery is required. The latter can be easily determined with a specially developed tool on kerbtier.de.

The tool can be accessed under the following address:

<http://www.kerbtier.de/Pages/Mapper/enTK25Mapper.html>





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6 Closing remarks

I hope that the kerbtier.de map module will attract many users and even more so many contributors, who volunteer to add their records to the database.

The project is designed a long-term joint project. Roughly 20 months after its start (status: 18.03.2012), still some limitations apply and should be kept in mind:

- The database contains approx. 3,267 species, hence it covers less than 50% of the German beetle fauna.
- The currently available 26,632 records are far from sufficient to provide a representative picture of the distribution of a species in Germany. However, the situation will hopefully improve over time, as more users volunteer to contribute their data.

That's why, let me mention it once more: Join in!

Any feedback of the users which helps to improve this functionality is highly welcome.

The best way to send your feedback is via the contact form at <http://www.kerbtier.de/cgi-bin/enKontakt.cgi>.



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7 Revisions

16.10.2010	Initial version online on kerbtier.de
26.10.2010	Display of ordnance map sheet name and number in the map module
25.11.2010	Minor change in color code
19.02.2011	Minor improvements of the manual
28.05.2011	Minor update of the manual
05.01.2012	Minor update of the manual
15.02.2012	Incorrect links to the templates fixed
18.03.2012	Minor update of the manual