



Three new species of the family Cantharidae (Coleoptera) from the Mediterranean

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Received 29 March 2005

Accepted 17 May 2005

Abstract. Three new species are described and illustrated: *Rhagonycha curvipes* sp. nov. (Turkey), *R. kantnerorum* sp. nov. (Spain) and *Malthodes delmastroi* sp. nov. (Greece).

■ Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Cantharidae, *Rhagonycha*, *Malthodes*, new species, Palearctic region

INTRODUCTION

The present paper is based on the comparison of new species with published reviews and/or revisions of the genera *Rhagonycha* Eschscholz, 1830 (Dahlgren 1968, 1972, Wittmer 1972) and *Malthodes* Kiesenwetter, 1852 (Wittmer 1970, 1980).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Material studied is deposited in the following collections: NMEG – Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany; and NMPC – Národní muzeum, Praha, Czech Republic.

The shades of colors used in the descriptions are classified according to Paclt (1958), structures of integument are named according to Harris (1979). Beetles were observed under the 90x magnification. Locality labels of the type material are cited in the original version, only dates are written in the English style.

TAXONOMIC PART

Rhagonycha curvipes sp. nov.

Type locality. S Turkey, Prov. Antalya, 23–25 km north of Mahmuttar, GPS 36 32N 32 21E, riverside, 900–1150 m.

Type material. Holotype, ♂ (NMEG), “Turcia m., Prov. Antalya, 23–25 km N Mahmuttar, 36 32N 32 21E, riverside, 900–1150 m, 1.vi.2004, leg. A. Skale“; paratype, ♀ (NMEG), same locality data, valley of stream, 1600–1700 m, 4.vi.2004, A. Weigel lgt.

Description. Coloration. Head black, before eyes including mouthparts egg-yolk yellow, basal three antennomeres egg-yolk yellow, following one sequentially darkened to sepia, antennomeres 4–9 narrowly terra-cotta basally. Prothorax egg-yolk yellow, pronotum with wide, mediolongitudinal black stripe, reaching almost both anterior and posterior margin of pronotum, lateral margins of stripe almost parallel to moderately sinuate.

Meso- and metasternum and scutellum black, legs egg-yolk yellow, coxae infusate basally. Elytra egg-yolk yellow.

Male. Eyes of moderate size, protruding, head across eyes as wide as pronotum, head beyond eyes strongly, arcuately narrowing posteriorly. Antenna almost reaching two thirds of elytral length. Surface of head very finely rugulose-lacunose, finely and sparsely yellow pubescent, semilustrous. Pronotum moderately wider than long, its anterior margin straight, anterior angles rounded, lateral margins moderately diverging posteriorly, nearly straight, only slightly emarginate before posterior angles, which are almost sharp and slightly protruding, posterior margin very widely rounded. Surface of pronotum sculptured and pubescent like that of head, semilustrous. Anterior and posterior tibiae moderately curved and dilated apically, intermediate one strongly curved and dilated apically as Fig. 1. Elytra distinctly dilating posteriorly, their surface strongly rugulose-lacunose, finely yellow pubescent, matt. Aedeagus – Figs 2–3.

Sexual dimorphism. Eyes smaller and less protruding than in male, head across eyes moderately narrower than pronotum, head behind eyes less narrowing posteriorly. All tibiae nearly straight, only slightly dilated posteriorly. Elytra relatively wider than in male.

Length ♂♀: 6.8–8.5 mm.

Distribution. SW Turkey.

Etymology. Derived from Latin *curvatus* = curved and *pes* = leg. Named according to the form of its middle tibia.

Differential diagnosis. *Rhagonycha curvipes* sp. nov. belongs to *R. nigriceps* species group in the sense of Švihla (1993). It is related to *R. compacta* Wittmer, 1972, from which it differs in having strongly curved and apically thickened mesotibia and longer, narrower and apically tapered paramere (cf. Wittmer 1972). The strongly curved mesotibia in male is, as far as known to me, hitherto unique within the genus *Rhagonycha* Eschscholz, 1830.

***Rhagonycha kantnerorum* sp. nov.**

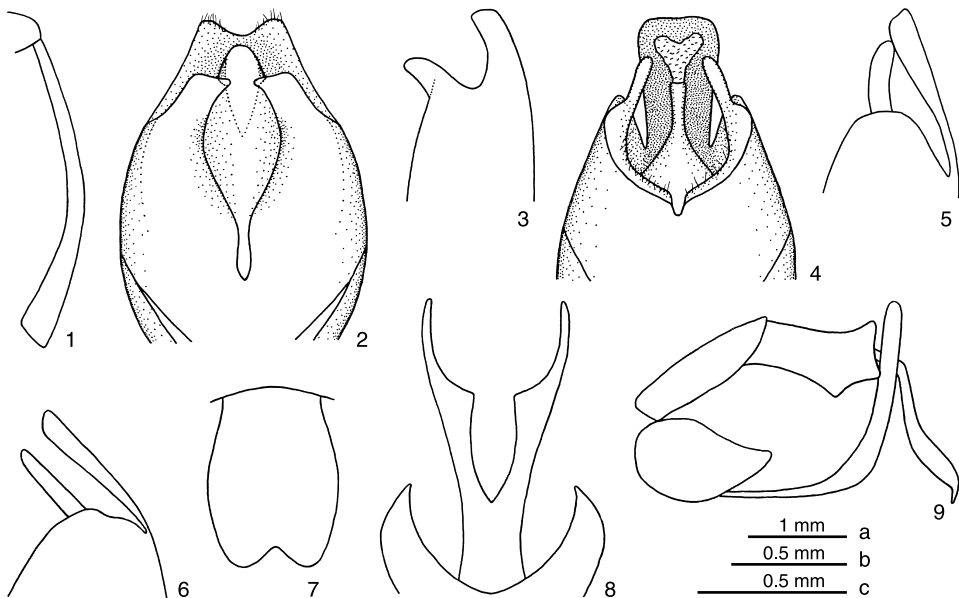
Type locality. S Spain, Prov. Granada, Sierra de Baza Mts., Caniles (37 26N 2 43W).

Type material. Holotype, ♂ (NMPC), “S Spain, Prov. Granada, Sierra de Baza mts., Caniles, 4.v.2003, F. & L. Kantner lgt.”; paratypes, same data, 2 ♂ (NMPC).

Description. Coloration. Head black, mouthparts honey yellow to sienna. Antennae black, antennomeres 1–3 more or less honey yellow basally and on their lower sides. Prothorax honey yellow, pronotum with wide, mediolongitudinal black spot, lateral margins of which are strongly bisinuate, reaching both anterior and posterior margin of pronotum. Meso- and metasternum, abdomen, legs and elytra black.

Male. Eyes of moderate size, protruding, head across eyes slightly wider than pronotum, head behind eyes almost evenly narrowing posteriorly. Antenna reaching three quarters of elytral length. Surface of head finely imbricate-punctate, sparsely and finely yellow pubescent, matt. Pronotum slightly wider than long, its anterior margin straight, anterior angles rounded, lateral margins very slightly diverging posteriorly, straight with only very shallow emargination before obtuse posterior angles, posterior margin widely rounded. Surface of pronotum sparsely and very finely punctate and yellow pubescent, lustrous. Elytra nearly parallel-sided, their surface finely punctate basally, rugulose-lacunose on rest of surface, finely and sparsely yellow pubescent, semilustrous basally, rest of surface matt. Aedeagus – Figs 4–5. Female unknown.

Length ♂: 5.2–5.5 mm.



Figs 1–9. *Rhagonycha curvipes* sp. nov.: (1) middle tibia of male; (2) aedeagus, ventral view; (3) ditto, lateral view. *Rhagonycha kantnerorum* sp. nov.: (4) aedeagus, ventral view; (5) ditto, lateral view. *R. striatofrons* Dahlg.: (6) aedeagus, lateral view. *Malthodes delmastroi* sp. nov.: (7) last tergite, oblique caudal view; (8) last sternite, oblique ventral view; (9) last abdominal segments, lateral view. Scale a – Fig. 1; b – Figs 2–6; c – Figs 7–9.

Distribution. S Spain.

Etymology. Dedicated to its collectors, František Kantner and his wife Liběna (České Budějovice), whom I am very indebted not only for this species, but for large number of specimens collected during their collecting journeys.

Differential diagnosis. *Rhagonycha kantnerorum* sp. nov. resembles by its coloration and by body form Algerian species *R. ornaticollis* Marseul, 1864, from which it differs in more protruding eyes, in somewhat longer antenna and, especially, in the form of the aedeagus, dorsal part of which is shorter and less emarginate and paramere is narrower in the *R. kantnerorum* sp. nov. (cf. Dahlgren 1972). The aedeagus of the new species is the most similar to that of Iberian species *R. striatofrons* Dahlgren, 1972, from which it differs in entirely black elytra and in shorter and wider paramere (cf. Dahlgren 1972 and Figs 5–6).

Malthodes delmastroi sp. nov.

Type locality. Greece, Prov. Peloponnese, Distr. Arkadhia, Levidi (37 40N 22 17E), Menalo Ski Resort.

Type material. Holotype, ♂ (NMPC), “GR -N Pelopon., Arcadia, Levidi, Menalo Ski Resort, 20.v.1999, G. B. Delmastro legit“; paratype (NMPC), same data 1 ♀.

Description. Coloration. Body chestnut brown to sepia, first two antennomeres, mandibles, anterior tibiae and tarsi in male or all tibiae and tarsi in female honey yellow.

Male. Eyes relatively large but slightly protruding, head across eyes as wide as pronotum, head behind eyes almost evenly narrowing posteriorly. Antenna reaching abdominal

apex. Surface of head very finely punctate and yellow pubescent, semilustrous. Pronotum almost twice as wide as long, its anterior margin straight, anterior angles obliquely bevelled, lateral margins straight, very slightly converging posteriorly, posterior angles obtusely rounded, posterior margin rounded, moderately protruding posteriorly. Surface of pronotum punctate and pubescent like that of head, semilustrous. Elytra cover about two thirds of abdominal length, parallel-sided, their surface finely rugulose-lacunose, sparsely and finely yellow pubescent, semilustrous. Last abdominal segments – Figs 7–9.

Sexual dimorphism. Eyes smaller than in male, head across eyes distinctly narrower than pronotum, head behind eyes arcuately narrowing posteriorly, antenna much shorter, reaching one third of elytral length, antennomeres very short, sequently shortening terminally. Elytra shorter, only slightly exceeding abdominal midlength.

Length ♂♀: 3.0–3.2 mm.

Distribution. Greece: Peloponnese.

Etymology. Dedicated to its collector, Giovanni B. Delmastro (Carmagnola), whom I am very obliged for presentation of the type material to our museum collection.

Differential diagnosis. *Malthodes delmastroi* sp. nov. resembles in its shape of last tergite to *M. schuberti* Wittmer, 1966, however, this species, occurring in the north-western Turkey, differs in the base of the last tergite with transverse carina and in the last sternite simply bifurcated, branches of the bifurcation not dilated interiorly (cf. Wittmer 1970). No species hitherto known from the Balkan Peninsula has such a form of both last tergite and last sternite (cf. Wittmer 1970, 1980).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my pleasant duty to thank to Andreas Kopetz (Kerspleben, Germany) and Matthias Hartmann (Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany) for a kind loan of interesting material. This study was supported by grant MK 00002327201 of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic.

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