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A NEW SPECIES OF *SCOTONOMUS* FROM MOUNT NURIA, LATIUM
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

INTRODUCTION

The *Scotonomus* Fauvel, 1873 are a group of anofthalmos (the eyes are usually reduced to very few ommatidia, sometimes by only one), apterous and depigmented Paederinae of small size (3-6 mm) living in the soil, deep under rocks and usually in wooded areas, such beech woods, and more rarely in the cave. They belong exclusively to the Italian fauna and are divided into two groups, one in Sardinia and one in the Apennines. The latter occurs mainly on the mountain ranges and seem almost always rather localized, so much so that we can advance the hypothesis that each mountain group hosts a different species.

Unlike the Sardinian species (Bordoni, Fancello & Leo, 2012; Leo, Degiovanni & Fancello, 2013; Bordoni & Fancello, 2014), they have a rather simple aedeagus, composed of only three lamellas, instead of four, protruding from the basal bulb.

For more information on these structures and on general considerations, refer to the texts of Binaghi (1970) and of Pace (1977). Here we are interested in proposing an overview of the Apennine species before describing a new species of Monte Nuria, between Rieti (Latium) and L'Aquila (Abruzzo).

At the moment these are 18 distributed as follows: *S. etruscus* Saulcy, 1878 (Tuscany); *S. latinus* Coiffait, 1970 (Umbria, North Latium); *S. arganoi* Bordoni, 1975 (Latium: Tivoli); *S. ausonius* Pace, 1977 (Latium: Ausoni Mts); *S. viator* Pace, 1977 (Latium: Ausoni Mts); *S. lepinensis* Pace, 1977 (Latium: Lepini Mts); *S. petrioli* Bordoni & Magrini, 2010 (Latium: Lepini Mts, cave); *S. auruncus* Pace, 1977 (Latium: Aurunci Mts); *S. straneoi* Binaghi, 1970 (Latium: Mt Scalambra); *S. vignai* Binaghi, 1970 (Latium: Mt Terminillo; Marche); *S. guareschii* Koch, 1944 (Latium: Mt Circeo); *S. andreinii* Bi-

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(**) 302th contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae.

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naghi, 1970 (Basilicata: Lagonegro); *S. proximus* Binaghi, 1970 (Basilicata: Maratea); *S. solarii* Holdhaus, 1924 (Campania: Vallo di Lucania; Basilicata); *S. picentinum* Pace, 1977 (Campania: Picentini Mts); *S. cerrutii* Binaghi, 1970 (Campania: Cava dei Tirreni); *S. albertae* Zanetti, 1977 (Campania: Massa Lubrense); *S. calaber* Pace, 1970 (Calabria: Grisolia).

Scotonomus aristodemoin. sp.

EXAMINED MATERIAL. Holotype ♂: Latium, Mt Nuria, (Rieti), 1155-1185 m, A. Paladini leg. 13.IV.2017 (coll. Bordoni); paratypes: same data, 1 ♂ (coll. Magrini), 1 ♀ (coll. Paladini).

DESCRIPTION. Length of body 3.3 mm; length from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra: 1.5 mm. Body (fig. 1) yellowish-orange, with lighter antennae and legs. Head of equal length and width, slightly dilated posteriorly, with moderately rounded sides, and with a dimple instead of the eyes. Surface of head with coarse, large punctation, almost absent on the clypeus. Pronotum proportionally massive, slightly longer than head, moderately narrow posteriorly and moderately dilated forward where it is as wide as head, with slightly rounded sides. Surface with evident punctation, apart from on a broad median band, finer on the sides. Elytra very short, shorter and slightly narrower than pronotum, narrow anteriorly and dilated posteriorly, with very oblique anterior margins and obsolete humeral angles. Surface wrinkled, with fine and very sparse punctation. Abdomen with traces of polygonal micro-reticulation and fine punctation, arranged in 2-3 series on each segment.

Sixth visible male abdominal tergite as in fig. 4; sixth visible male sternite with the usual median posterior indentation (fig. 5); male genital segment and sternite of the same as in (figs 6-7). Aedeagus (figs 2-3, 8-10) 0.8 mm long. Basal bulb robust from which three lamellas come out. Median lamella thick, just bent, in ventral view, to the right, with two noticeable denticulations on the left front margin, very conspicuous in lateral view (fig. 10). Short anterior lamella, sub-rectangular, with acute apex; posterior lamella very large, triangular, sail-shaped, partially membranous, with slightly rounded apex. Parameres shorter than the median lamella, with two long setae at the apex and numerous setae at the inner margin.

ETYMOLOGY. Patronymic. We dedicate the new species to the father of the collector, Aristodemo Paladini, who died suddenly in these days, which he had always actively collaborated with the son's entomological research Alessandro.

DISTRIBUTION. The species is known only from the type locality.

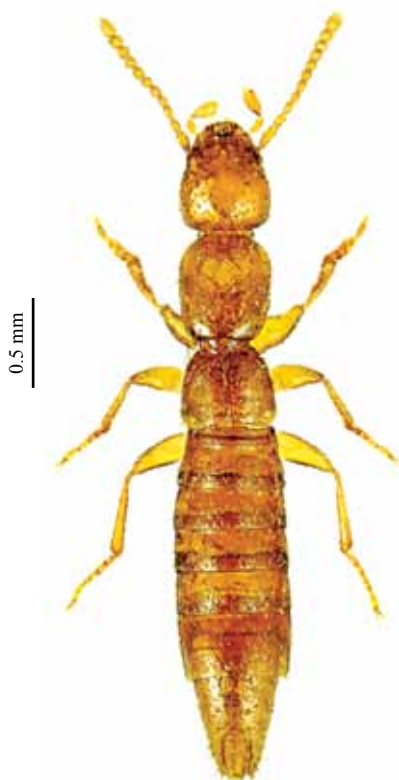
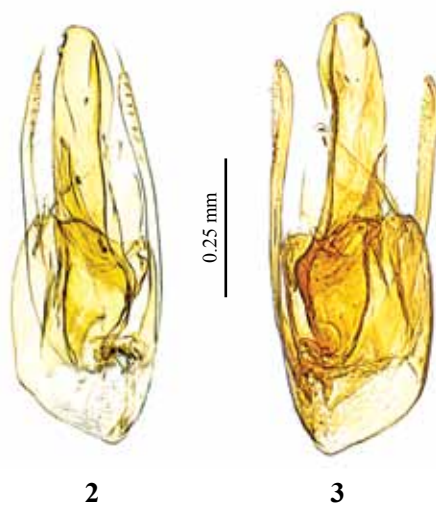
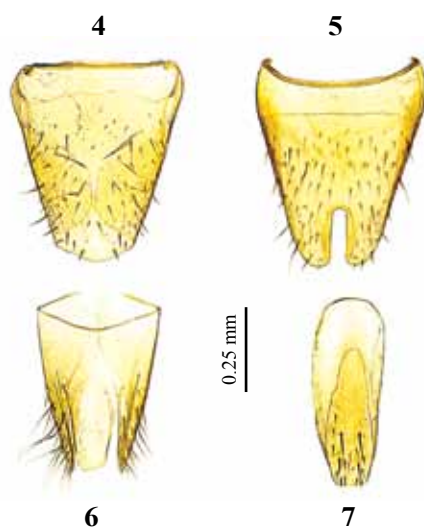


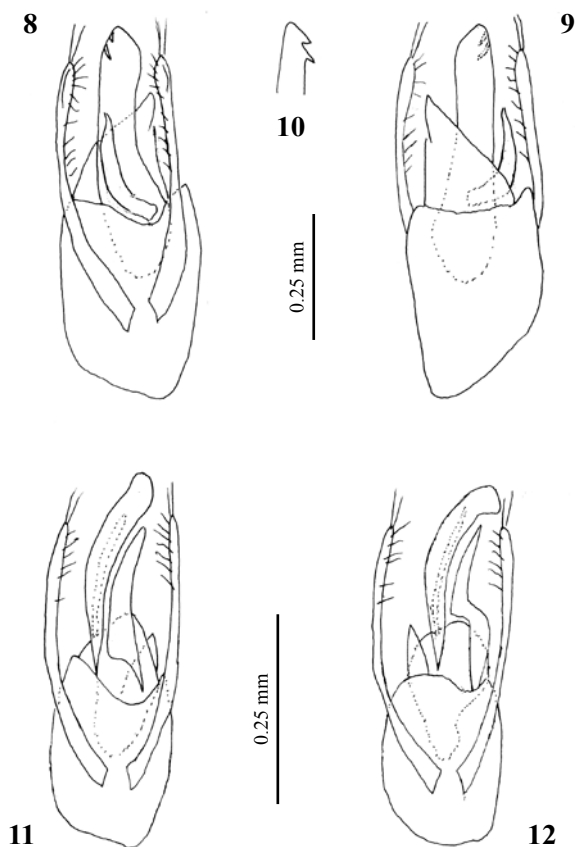
Fig. 1 – Habitus of *Scotonomus aristodemoi* n. sp.



Figs 2-3 – *Scotonomus aristodemoi* n. sp.: aedeagus in ventral view (2) and in dorsal view (3).



Figs 4-7 – *Scotonomus aristodemoi* n. sp.: sixth visible male tergite (4) and sternite (5), male genital segment (6) and sternite of the same (7).



Figs 8-12 – Aedeagus of: *Scotonomus aristodemoi* n. sp. in ventral view (8), in dorsal view (9), median lamella in lateral view (10); *S. etruscus* Saulcy, 1878 in ventral view (11); *S. latinus* Coiffait, 1970 in ventral view (12).

REMARKS. The new specie seems to belong to the group *straneoi* proposed by Pace (1977) and mainly composed of species from the Latium Apennines, in relation to the general structure of the aedeagus. From these species it differs mainly due to the very evident presence of two apical denticulations on the left side of the medial lobe and of the large posterior lamella.

Mount Nuria is located between the cities of Rieti in Latium and L'Aquila in Abruzzo, just south of Monte Terminillo where *S. vignai* was found, and then rather north of the localities of the Latium species, almost on the border with Abruzzo.

Although we share the diagnosis of Pace (1977), taken up by Zanetti (1977),

regarding the definition of the lamellae, we maintain the nomenclature adopted in other contributions for the sake consistency with previous descriptions.

Scotonomus etruscus Saulcy, 1878 and **Scotonomus latinus** Coiffait, 1970

The difference between these two species, which are very similar to each other, and often confused with one another, has not always been well defined. We use the opportunity of these pages to make a more detailed examination of the lamellae of the aedeagus. (figs 11-12).

In *S. etruscus* the median lamella, in ventral view, is not evidently bent to the right, as in *S. latinus*; the right lamella is much sturdier and wider and ends in a less acute apex and the proximal narrowing is less accentuated and placed lower, while it is very evident and on the upper level in *S. latinus*; the left more slender lamella is less thin than that of *S. latinus*.

S. etruscus occurs only in Tuscany and *S. latinus* in Umbria and North Latium.

We know *S. etruscus* from Tuscany: Mt Amiata, Sovana (Grosseto), Greve (Florence) and *S. latinus* from Umbria: Mt Martano (Perugia), Titignano (Orvieto), Montecchio (Todi), Mt Serano (Foligno); Latium: Farnese Pte. S. Pietro (Viterbo), Manziana (Rome), Mts Cimini, Mts Volsini (all in coll. Bordonì).

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ABSTRACT

Scotonomus aristodemoi n. sp. from Mount Nuria in Latium is described and illustrated. The difference between *S. etruscus* Saulcy, 1878 and *S. latinus* Coiffait, 1970 is illustrated through differences in the conformation of the aedeagi.

RIASSUNTO

Una nuova specie di Scotonomus del Monte Nuria, Lazio (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae).

Scotonomus aristodemoi n. sp. del Monte Nuria nel Lazio viene descritto e illustrato. La differenza tra *S. etruscus* Saulcy, 1878 e *S. latinus* Coiffait, 1970 viene evidenziata tramite il disegno degli eedeagi.

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