

NEW OR NOTEWORTHY RECORDS OF WESTERN
PALAEARCTIC SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OCHODAEUS*
(Coleoptera, Ochodaeidae) (*)

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The systematics of the genus *Ochodaeus* Dejean, 1821, within the Western Palaearctic area appears highly problematic and urgently calls for a comprehensive revision, in order to give a correct interpretation and accurate definition for each of several closely resembling twin species. As long as such a contribution is not available, a great deal of confusion will persist on this subject. The present paper deals with interesting records concerning some western Palaearctic species. All the material hereby quoted with no acronym is deposited in author's private collection.

ABBREVIATIONS: CC = G.M. Carpaneto, Museum of Zoology, University of Rome "La Sapienza" (MZUR); CP = author's Coll.; MHNG = Muséum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva; MSNG = Museo Civico di Storia Naturale "G.Doria", Genoa; MSNM = Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Milan; NHMW = Naturhistorisches Museum, Vienna; TMB = Természettudományi Muzeum, Budapest; ZIL = Zoological Institute, Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg.

***Ochodaeus chrysomeloides* (Schrank, 1781)**

Scarabaeus chrysomeloides Schrank, 1781, Enum. Ins. Austriae: 16;

Ochodaeus chrysomeloides, Le Peletier de St Fargeau & Serville, 1828, Encycl. Méthod., 10: 360; Baraud, 1992: 97; Carpaneto et al., 2000: 226;

Scarabaeus chrysomelinus, Linnaeus, 1790 in: Gmelin, Syst. Nat., ed. 13, 1 (4): 1566 (incorrect spelling);

Ochodaeus chrysomelinus, Dejean, 1821, Cat. Coll. Coléopt. Dejean: 56;

Ochodaeus scymnoides Mulsant, 1842, Hist. Nat. Coléopt. France, Lamellic.: 342 (syn.);

Ochodaeus clypeatus Motschulsky, 1859, Études Entom., 8: 133 (syn.).

(*) LVI contribution to the knowledge of Coleoptera Scarabaeoidea.

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TYPE LOCALITY: Vienna, Austria.

TYPE MATERIAL: lost since 1848.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Greece, Thessaly (Larisa Prov.), SW side of Mount Ossa, 900 m, vicinity of Spilia 5.V.1996, flying at dusk close to the ground on a meadow of Gramineae, C. Pesarini & A. Sabbadini leg., 7 male & female specimens; Greece, Macedonia (Katerini Prov.): NE of Katerini, Niseli (Alexandria) 20 m, in souslik dens 31.III.1994 L. & R. Pittino leg., 1 female spec.; Greece, Macedonia (Serres Prov.) 4 km NE of Siderokastro, 400 m, bank of a torrent, shore sifting 25.IV.2001 L. & R. Pittino leg., 1 male. Algeria: Hauts Plateaux, Aïn Sefra, 1070 m, 4.IV.1981 at light R. Pittino leg., 1 male.

DISCUSSION. Aforesaid records confirm the occurrence of this species in northern Greece, whereas the ancient ones "Akarnanien, Pelopónissos, Attika" (Oertzen 1886) might actually refer to *O. taly-croides* Reitter, 1892, at that time unknown. The species is new to Africa (cf. Baraud 1985).

Ochodaes cychramoides Reitter, 1892

Ochodaes cychramoides Reitter, 1892: 255; Baraud, 1992: 98.

TYPE LOCALITY: Piemonte, Italy.

TYPE MATERIAL: a female syntype, the only still existing specimen from Reitter's original type series, at TMB.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Italy. Emilia (Piacenza Prov.): Po River flood, confluence btw. Po and Trebbia Rivers near Piacenza 8.V.1975 G. Mariani leg., 1 male and 1 female. Basilicata (Matera Prov.): Policoro 2.V.1976 F. Angelini leg., 1 male.

DISCUSSION. *O. cychramoides* is universally regarded as an endemic valid species in the recent literature, disregarding the synonymy with *O. chrysomeloides* proposed by Endrödi (1955). As a matter of fact, the above three individuals, light yellowish and 5,1-5,6 mm long, have, in agreement with Reitter (1892), visibly impressed elytral striae, moderately convex intervals, setigerous granules on alternate intervals distinctly arranged in 3-4 rows discally. In the Greek and Algerian specimens of *O. chrysomeloides* recorded above and several previously studied ones from central Europe, elytral striae are slighter, intervals almost flat, setigerous granules on alternate intervals closer and more irregularly distributed, forming no distinct rows. Additionally, the Italian specimens also differ in having clypeus rather narrow and

distinctly produced forwards, and 2nd elytral interval clearly wider on disc, reducing width of the 3rd; on the contrary, in *O. chrysomeloides* the clypeus is wider and moderately produced, and all intervals are about the same width discally. Therefore, I persist in considering *O. cycoramoides* a valid species endemic to Italy, and also strongly suspect that all Italian *Ochodaeus* belong to this species, whereas *O. chrysomeloides* does not actually occur in Italy.

***Ochodaeus integriceps* Semenov, 1891**

Ochodaeus integriceps Semenov, 1891, Horae Soc. Ent. Ross., 25: 313; Baraud, 1992: 99; Bunalski, 2000: 90; Carpaneto et al., 2000: 226; Guéorguiev & Bunalski, 2004: 270.

Ochodaeus euxinus Semenov, 1900, Horae Soc. Ent. Ross., 34: 93 (syn.).

TYPE LOCALITY: Caucasus.

TYPE MATERIAL: at ZIL in S.t Petersburg.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Lower Austria: vicinity of Leitha 10.VI.1935 A. Otto Klosterneuburg leg. 1 male & 1 female (ex A. Winkler Coll.). Hungary: Budapest leg. Zoppa, 1 male.

DISCUSSION. *O. integriceps* clearly differs from both former ones in having no antero-median clypeal emargination and setigerous granules on all elytral discal intervals evenly arranged in 3-4 rows. Previously known from Caucasus, recently quoted first from Moravia (Bunalski 1999), then from several places in Bulgaria (Bunalski 2000; Guéorguiev & Bunalski 2004), this species is hereby new to Austria and Hungary.

***Ochodaeus thalycroides* Reitter, 1892**

Ochodaeus thalycroides Reitter, 1892: 256; Carpaneto, 1977: 91; Baraud, 1992: 101; Carpaneto et al., 2000: 226; Bunalski, 2001: 167; Guéorguiev & Bunalski, 2004: 270.

TYPE LOCALITY: Greece, Morea (currently Peloponnesus).

TYPE MATERIAL: TMB.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Greece, Epirus (Ioannina Prov.): about 27 km S of Ioannina, near Kopani, 460 m, leaf litter sifting 3.V.1973 I. Löbl leg., 1 male (CP) and 1 female (MHNG); Greece, Macedonia (Kozani Prov.): NE of Kozani, Aghios Eleutheros, 720 m,

in souslik dens 24.IV.2001 L. & R. Pittino leg., 1 female; ditto (Florina Prov.): between Kato Idrusa and Perasma, spurs of Mount Vernon 10.V.1985 A. Liberto leg., 1 spec. (CC); ditto, Chalcidice: Mount Athos A. Schatzmayr leg., 1 female (CP), 1 male and 1 female (MSNM); Greece, Peloponnesus, Achaia (Patras Prov.), between Kalavryta and Aghia Lavra, 750 m, flying at dusk 25.V.2001 C. Pesarini leg., 1 female; ditto (Patras Prov.): N of Stavrodromi, Loc. Balios, shorewashing of sandy-clayey soil among roots of *Juncus acutus* L. on the bank of a little torrent, 29.IX.1980 H. Pierotti leg., 2 specimens (MSNG). Turkey, Vil. (= Prov.) Muğla: 16 km W of Köyceğiz 3.V.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg., 9 specimens.

DISCUSSION. *O. thalycroides* is close to *O. integriceps* and shares with it the absence of antero- median clypeal emargination, but differs in having antennal club dark except the yellowish external face of the apical lamella, rather than entirely light yellowish as in the latter. Moreover, *O. thalycroides* has two distinct teeth on the upper anterior edge of the male profemur, rather than a single blunt obtuse subapical tooth as in *O. integriceps*. Spread throughout Greece, *O. thalycroides* is also known from South Bulgaria (Bunalski 2001; Guéorguiev & Bunalski 2004), Turkish Thrace (Baraud 1992) and Asian Turkey (Çarpaneto 1977), from where it is hereby confirmed.

Ochodaeus seleuciensis Petrovitz, 1963

Ochodaeus seleuciensis Petrovitz, 1963: 245; Carpaneto, 1977: 90; Carpaneto et al., 2000: 226.

TYPE LOCALITY: Anatolia, southern side of Bulghardağ, Namrun (currently Çamlıyayla), 1170 m a.s.l.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype male at MHNG, studied by the writer.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Turkey, Vil. Adana: woods above Çardak 27-30.IV.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (3). Vil. Antakya (= Hatay): 20 km E of Gazeluşağı (formerly Akbez) 28-30. V.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (18); ditto, nr. Senköy 30.IV.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (1). Vil. Izmir: btw. Bergama and Kozak 18.VII.1969 C. Besuchet & I. Löbl. leg. (1) (MHNG). Vil. Kahraman-Maraş: 30 km N of Kahraman-Maraş 7-17.VI.1992 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (5); ditto, 8 km S of Tekir 7-17.VI.1992 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (1). Vil. Tunceli: 7 km W of Nazimiye 1500 m 9-16.VI.1992 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (2).

DISCUSSION. *O. seleuciensis* is close to *O. integriceps*, but usually larger (individuals 8 mm long not rarely occur) and darker, with setigerous granules on the elytral intervals not distinctly seriate discally. It can be easily recognized by the peculiar shape of the apical projection

on the infero-medial margin of the male foretibia. This species, quoted by new records only once since the original description (Carpaneto 1977), appears widespread throughout western and southern Anatolia. All the findings by Dacatra and Graziosi were obtained by using pitfall ground traps with a vinegar/beer mixture as a bait.

Ochodaeus holzschuhi Petrovit, 1971

Ochodaeus holzschuhi Petrovitz, 1971: 566; Carpaneto, 1977: 91; Carpaneto et al., 2000: 226.

TYPE LOCALITY: Turkey, Efes (Izmir).

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype male at MHNG, studied by the writer.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Turkey. Vil. Antalya: near Arif, road to Finike, 350 m (trap) 25-29. IV.1982 A. Vigna Taglianti leg. (3) (CC); ditto, 18 km SE of Gazipaşa 24.IV.1978 C. Besuchet & I. Löbl leg. (1)(MHNG); ditto, hill N of Termessos, 1200 m 1.V.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (9); ditto, Termessos, 500 m, pitfall ground traps (vinegar/beer bait) 1.V.1990 S. Dacatra & S. Graziosi leg. (117). Vil. Kütahya: 15 km from Kütahya 27.V.1981 G. Sama leg. (1)(CC). Vil. İçel (Mersin): btw. Yeniköy and İçel 650 m 29.IV.1978 C. Besuchet & I. Löbl leg. (1)(MHNG). Vil. Muğla: near Fethiye, 200 m (traps) 27.IV-1.V.1982 A. Vigna Taglianti leg. (2)(CC); ditto, Bayır 6.VII.1987 A. Casale leg. (1)(CC).

DISCUSSION. *O. holzschuhi* is one of the twin species close to *O. integriceps*, differing from it in having a strong middle tooth on the profemoral anterior margin in male, setigerous granules on elytral intervals not arranged in distinct rows discally and antennal club entirely dark. Although never quoted by new records since the original description, it appears widespread and rather common in western Anatolia. Like the preceding species, it was collected by ground traps with vinegar/beer bait.

Ochodaeus berytensis Petrovitz, 1965

Ochodaeus berytensis Petrovitz, 1965: 681; Chikatunov & Pavlíček, 1997: 41.

TYPE LOCALITY: dunes south of Beirut, Lebanon.

TYPE MATERIAL: holotype at NHMW, paratypes at MHNG, studied by the writer.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Turkey, Vil. Adana: Karatepe 1.V.1982 R. Pittino leg., 1 female.

DISCUSSION. Also *O. berytensis* is close to *O. integriceps*, but has the upper anterior edge of the male profemur with a sharp middle tooth, the infero-apical projection of the inner protibial margin transversely flattened, and the antennal club dark. On the contrary, in *O. integriceps* the upper anterior edge of the male profemur is gently rounded at most with wide obtuse subapical protrusion, the infero-apical projection of the inner protibial margin is transversely concave, and the antennal club is entirely light yellowish. *O. berytensis*, described from Lebanon, also known from Israel (Chikatunov & Pavlíček 1997), is quoted here as new to Turkey. The specimen from Karatepe was collected by sifting sand among grass roots near the shores of a torrent.

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ABSTRACT

New records concerning several W. Palaearctic species of the genus *Ochodaeus* Dejean, 1821 are given: *O. chrysomeloides* (Schrank, 1781), confirmed for Greece and new to Africa; *O. cycchramoides* Reitter, 1892, confirmed as valid, Italian endemic, species; *O. integriceps* Semenov, 1891, new to Austria and Hungary; *O. thalycroides* Reitter, 1892, quoted from Greece and Anatolia; *O. seleuciensis* Petrovitz, 1963, previously quoted only once, and *O. holzschuhi* Petrovitz, 1971, never recorded, since their original descriptions, both actually widespread across W. Anatolia; *O. berytensis* Petrovitz, 1965, new to Turkey.

SUMMARY

Segnalazioni nuove o interessanti di specie paleartiche occidentali del genere Ochodaeus (Coleoptera, Ochodaeidae).

Nuove segnalazioni di numerose specie paleartiche occidentali del genere *Ochodaeus* Dejean, 1821 sono qui riportate: *O. chrysomeloides* (Schrank, 1781), confermato per Grecia e nuovo per l'Africa; *O. cycchramoides* Reitter, 1892, confermato specie valida ed endemismo italiano; *O. integriceps* Semenov, 1891, nuovo per Austria e Ungheria; *O. thalycroides* Reitter, 1892, citato di Grecia e Anatolia; *O. seleuciensis* Petrovitz, 1963, precedentemente citato solo una volta, e *O. holzschuhi* Petrovitz, 1971, mai citato, dopo le descrizioni originali, entrambi largamente diffusi in Anatolia occidentale; *O. berytensis* Petrovitz, 1965, nuovo per la Turchia.

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