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## Revision of the Palearctic species of the genus *Ochthebius* LEACH

### XXII. Description of a new species of the *O. metallescens* group from Spain

(Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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#### **Abstract**

*Ochthebius judemaesi* sp.n. (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae), a member of the *Ochthebius metallescens* group, is described from southeastern Spain.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Ochthebius metallescens* group, new species, Spain.

#### **Introduction**

The *Ochthebius* (s.str.) *metallezens* ROSENHAUER species group has been treated extensively by JÄCH (1989, 1999, 2000, 2001). In the three latter papers four new species were described from Spain (Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Islands).

During a recent revision of the Iberian species of *Ochthebius* LEACH, several specimens from southeastern Spain, previously identified as *O. metallescens* (e.g. by DELGADO & SOLER 1997), were found to represent a new species, which is described herein. It is the seventh member of this species group in the Iberian Peninsula.

**Acronyms:**

CDM	Coll. Delgado, Murcia
CFE	Coll. Fresneda, El Pont de Suert
MNCNM	Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid
NMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien
PL	Projected Length of aedeagus (sensu JÄCH 1998)

#### ***Ochthebius judemaesi* sp.n.**

*Ochthebius metallescens* sensu DELGADO & SOLER 1997. – VALLADARES & MONTES 1991 (partim).

TYPE LOCALITY (Fig. 3): River Segura, ca. 970 m a.s.l., coordinates: 38°10'N 2°33'W, ca. 400 m east of La Toba, 7.5 km south of Santiago de la Espada, Jaén, southeastern Spain.

TYPE MATERIAL: Holotype ♂ (NMW): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Segura cerca de La Toba, 19-8-[19]91 J.A. Delgado Leg”. Paratypes: 2 ♂♂ (MNCNM, CDM), same date and locality data as holotype; 1 ♀ (CDM): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Madera, 29-7-[19]89 J.A. Delgado leg”; 1 ♀ (CDM): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Zumeta, 14-3-[19]86”; 2 ♀♀ (NMW, CDM): “SPAIN, Albacete, río de las Hoyas, 4-6-[19]83”; 1 ♂ (CFE): “[arroyo] Valdecuevas, Cazorla, Jaén 10-7-[19]87 Fresneda leg”.

DIAGNOSIS: 1.5 mm long. Colouration varies from very dark brown to black, some specimens with faint bluish metallic reflections; tibiae and femora brown. Disc of head and pronotum

glabrous. Anterior margin of labrum moderately excised. Frons sparsely punctate and microreticulate. Ocular grooves deeply impressed; ocelli well developed. Pronotal disc moderately densely punctate; interstices microreticulate, with some glabrous areas of variable size; postocular teeth and postocular emarginations not conspicuously large; anterior angles acute. Lateral margins of pronotum in anterior half rather straight, slightly convergent, distinctly crenulate; in posterior half distinctly and slightly concavely constricted towards base. Elytra oblong; disc with six rows of punctures between suture and shoulder; rows straight and regular; punctures not deeply impressed, each with a small seta; intervals between rows rather flat, superficially microsculptured. Lateral gutter moderately widely explanate in the middle. Metaventral disc entirely pubescent.

Female slightly larger than male, 1.6–1.7 mm long. Elytral gutter slightly wider than in male. Last abdominal tergite with blunt spines.

Aedeagus (Figs. 1–2): Main piece rather long (PL: 310–320 µm) and rather straight in lateral view. Apex of main piece obliquely truncate, ventrally with a group of small subapical bristles; phallobase asymmetrical. Parameres inserted near 0.5 of main piece; apices slightly widened, with a few, rather short setae; right paramere longer than left one. Distal lobe elongate, strongly recurved, crescentic (lateral view), moderately wide (lateral view) and subglobose in basal half (ventral view); distal half thin, more or less parallel-sided in lateral view, evenly tapering in ventral view; apex rounded.

**DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS:** Externally, *Ochthebius judemaesi* sp.n. resembles *O. pedroi* JÄCH (endemic to Mallorca) from which it can be distinguished by the shape of the lateral margin of the pronotal “ears” being more straight, by the anterior pronotal angles being less acute, by the more dense microreticulation of the pronotal disc and by the elytra being more parallel-sided in *O. pedroi*. The new species also resembles *O. aristoteles* JÄCH from Greece in size and body shape, but differs from it clearly by the aedeagus. The aedeagus of the new species is also very different from the other members of the *O. metallescens* species group represented in the Iberian Peninsula: the distal lobe is strongly crescentic, almost U-shaped, hook-like, with the distal half thin and subacute apically.

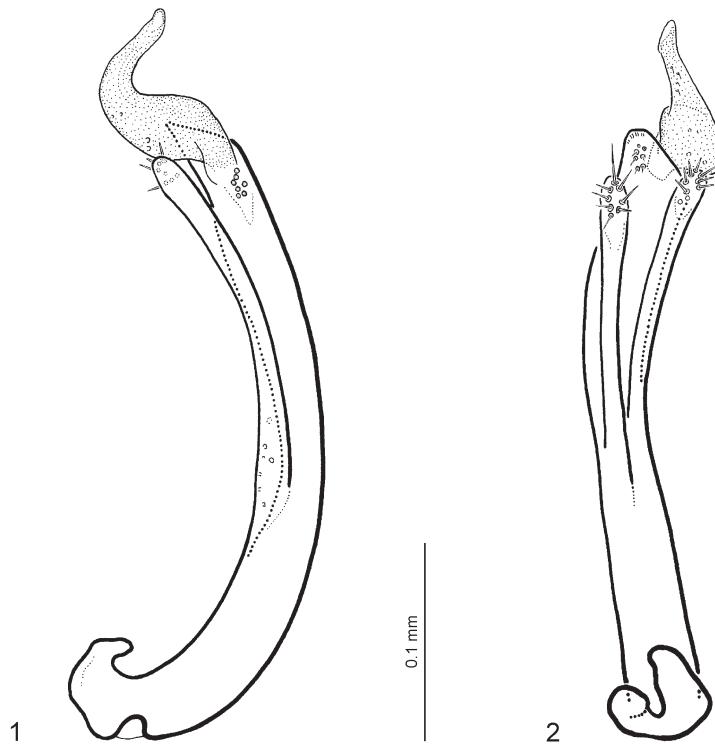
**DISTRIBUTION:** So far known only from southeastern Spain (Jaén and Albacete).

**HABITAT:** The holotype and two paratypes were collected among the stones at the margins of River Segura. The river is ca. three m wide and 30–40 cm deep, moderately shaded by bushes (*Salix* sp.) and poplar trees (*Populus nigra*). The river bed and its margins are formed mainly by pebbles and gravel. Submerged stones are generally covered by thin coatings of green algae and diatoms. Slimy layers of blue-green algae are more frequent close to the margins. Some emergent rocks are partially covered with moss. The hydraenid fauna associated with *Ochthebius judemaesi* includes *Limnebius cordobanus* ORCHYMONT, 1938, *O. bonnairei* GUILLEBAU, 1896, *Hydraena hernandoi* FRESNEDA & LAGAR, 1990 and *H. rufipennis* BOSCÁ BERGA, 1932.

**ETYMOLOGY:** The epithet is an acronym of Juan Delgado Martínez-Esparza, first-born son of the first author.

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Figs. 1–2: Aedeagus of *Ochthebius judemaesi* sp.n., 1) lateral view, 2) ventral view.

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Fig. 3: Type locality of *Ochthebius judemaesi*; río Segura near La Toba, Jaén, southeastern Spain.

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