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The first record of *Dinusa* SAULCY 1864 from Turkey (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

V. ASSING

Abstract: *Dinusa taurica* sp. n. from central southern Anatolia, the first representative of the myrmecophilous genus from Turkey, is described, figured, and distinguished from similar congeners.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Dinusa*, Palaearctic region, Turkey, taxonomy, new species, first record, myrmecophile.

1. Introduction

The oxypodine genus *Dinusa* SAULCY currently includes twelve valid species, nine from the Western Palaearctic (North Africa, eastern Mediterranean), two from the Ethiopian region, and one from India (BERNHAUER 1900, BERNHAUER & SCHEERPELTZ 1926). The last species was described in 1916; records of *Dinusa* species are extremely rare and, to my knowledge, not a single record has been published from the Western Palaearctic region in the past 75 years. According to BERNHAUER (1902), *Dinusa* species are myrmecophilous and associated with *Aphaenogaster barbara* (L.), an ant species today attributed to the genus *Messor* FOREL. Although I have examined numerous *Messor* nests, I have collected *Dinusa* on only one occasion: a single specimen of *D. taygetana* EPPELSHEIM from a nest of *Messor* cf. *caducus* (VICTOR). In external appearance, *Dinusa* somewhat resembles the genus *Piochardia* HEYDEN 1870 of the Aleocharini, especially due to some morphological adaptations to myrmecophily (e. g. a wedge-shaped body, a large protective pronotum, flattened antennomeres, long and slender legs).

Unidentified staphylinid material from the collections of the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NHMW), kindly made available to me by Harald Schillhammer, contained two specimens of an undescribed *Dinusa* species from southern Anatolia, the first record of the genus from Turkey.

Dinusa taurica sp. n. (Figs. 1-8, Map 1)

Holotype ♂: Asm. Kil. Taurus, Ciftehan, V.66, leg. F. Schubert / Holotypus ♂ *Dinusa taurica* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2001 (NHMW).
Paratype: 1♀: Namrun, Anat. m., 10.5.-3.6.63, leg. F. Schubert (cAss).

Description: Measurements (in mm) and ratios (holotype, paratype): total length: 4.1, 4.8; head width (HW): 0.78, 0.82; length of pronotum (PL): 0.69, 0.74; width of pronotum (PW): 1.38, 1.41; width of elytra (EW): 1.34, 1.40; length of elytra at suture

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from apex of scutellum to elytral hind margin (EL): 0.64, 0.70; length of metatibia (HTiL): 0.80, 0.84; length of metatarsus (HTaL): 0.68, 0.66; length of first metatarsomere (HTa1L): 0.24, 0.23; combined length of metatarsomeres II - IV (HTa2L): 0.24, 0.24; PW/HW: 1.76, 1.71; PW/PL: 2.0, 1.9; PW/EW: 1.03, 1.01; EL/PL: 0.93, 0.94; HTaL/HTiL: 0.85, 0.78; HTa1L/HTa2L: 1.0, 0.96.

Head dark brown; pronotum in the middle dark brown, towards the lateral margins gradually lighter; elytra yellowish brown; abdomen dark brown, with the apex and the posterior tergal margins light brown; legs and antennae yellowish brown.

Head transverse (Fig. 1), with extremely fine and not very dense puncturation, and shallow microsculpture; eyes in dorsal view shorter than postgenae, not projecting from lateral outline of head (Fig. 1). Antenna of similar morphology as in *D. taygetana*, slender and apically slightly incrassate; antennomeres III-X flattened and coniform; antennomeres IV - X of subequal length; relative length of antennomeres I - IV as in Fig. 1.

Pronotum much wider than head and strongly transverse (see ratios PW/EW and PW/PL); shape as in Fig. 1; puncturation extremely fine; microsculpture very shallow; pubescence decumbent and directed more or less caudad.

Elytra approximately as wide as and at suture slightly shorter than pronotum (see ratios PW/EW and EL/PL); posterior margin near posterior angles distinctly sinuate (Fig. 1); puncturation extremely fine; microsculpture shallow; pubescence decumbent and directed caudad; hind wings apparently fully developed. Legs, especially tarsi, long and slender (see measurements and ratio HTaL/HTiL); first metatarsomere approximately as long as the three following tarsomeres (see ratio HTa1L/HTa2L).

Abdomen distinctly tapering posteriad; puncturation dense and fine, not distinctly sparser on tergum VII than on the anterior terga; microsculpture very shallow, almost obsolete; posterior margin of tergum VII with palisade fringe; tergum VIII distinctly oblong, posteriorly convex, and with numerous long setae in posterior half (Fig. 6).

♂: sternum VIII with dense and short pubescence, its posterior margin distinctly pointed and with some relatively long thin setae in the middle (Fig. 7); aedeagus with median lobe strongly arched in lateral view (Figs. 2-3); apical lobe of paramere as in Fig. 4.

♀: sternum VIII with similar pubescence as in ♂, but posterior margin smoothly convex and with numerous long thin setae, which are longer in the middle than in lateral areas (Fig. 8); spermatheca as in Fig. 5.

Derivatio nominis: The name (Lat., adj.) is derived from the Taurus mountain range in southern Anatolia, where the species was discovered.

Comparative notes: From the Greek *D. taygetana*, *D. taurica* sp. n. is distinguished by the wider body, the much more transverse and wider pronotum, the finer puncturation of the forebody, the distinctly finer puncturation of the abdomen, and by the more densely punctate abdominal tergum VII. In other congeners from North Africa and the Middle East, either the pronotal hind margin is sinuate, or the abdomen is sparsely punctate, or the abdominal tergum VII is distinctly less densely punctate than the anterior terga. According to BERNHAUER (1902), the only species with a similar abdominal puncturation is *D. jebusaea* SAULCY 1864 from Syria, which is distinctly smaller (3 mm) and which has a uniformly brown pronotum. The genitalia of other *Dinusa* species have not been figured.

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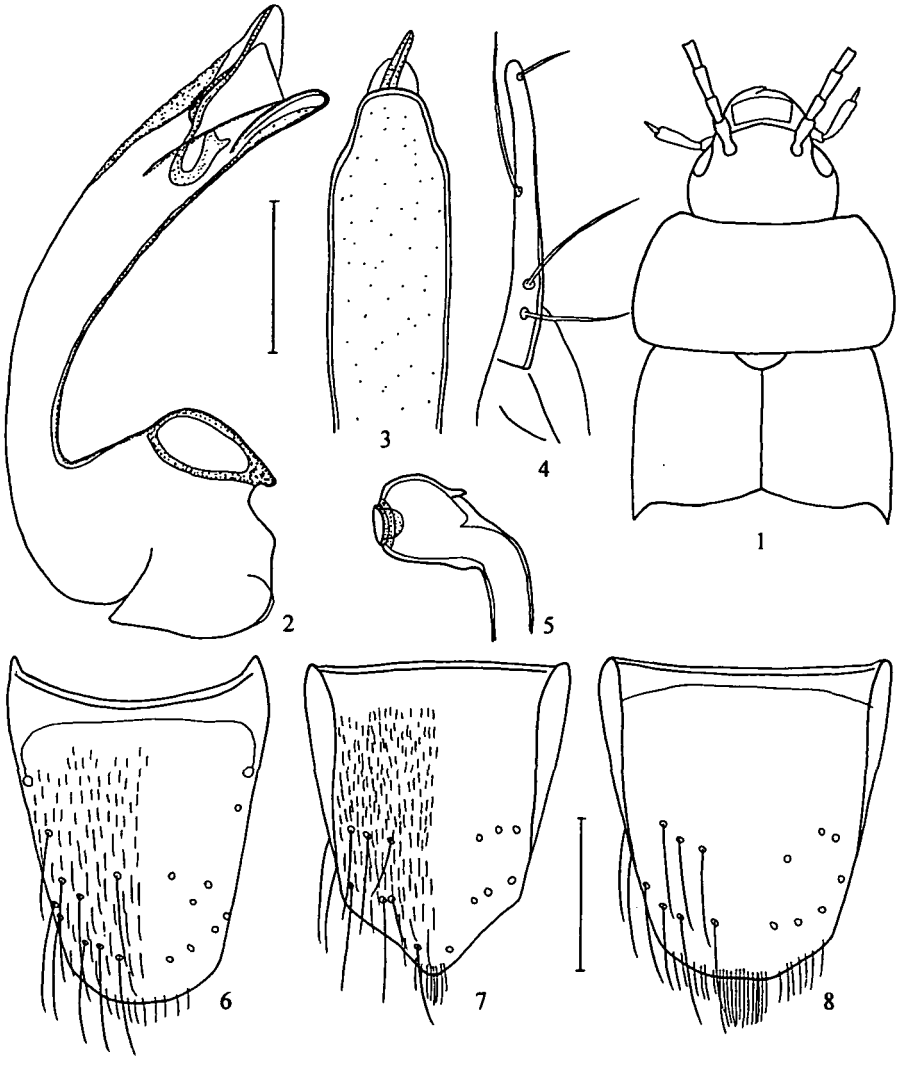

Figs. 1-8: *Dinusa taurica* sp. n.: **1** – outline of forebody; **2** – median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; **3** – apical part of ventral process of aedeagus in antero-ventral view; **4** – apical lobe of paramere; **5** – spermatheca, part of duct missing; **6** – ♂ tergum VIII, **7** – ♂ sternum VIII, **8** – ♀ sternum VIII, pubescence omitted. Scales: 5: 0.1 mm; 2-4: 0.2 mm; 6-8: 0.4; 1: 0.8 mm.

Distribution and bionomics: The new species is known from two localities in the Taurus range in central southern Anatolia (eastern Mersin, southern Niğde) (Map 1). Both type specimens were collected in late spring (May, June) and are slightly teneral. The host ant is unknown.

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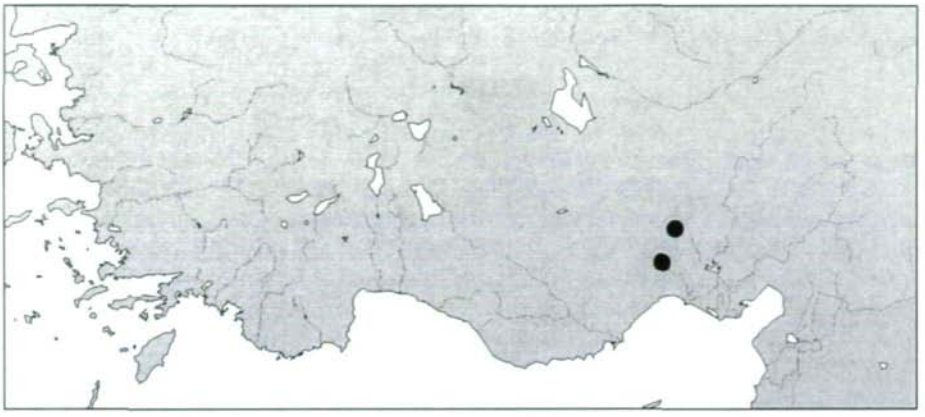

Map 1: Known distribution of *Dinusa taurica* sp. n. in southern Anatolia.

Zusammenfassung

Dinusa taurica sp. n. wird aus dem südlichen Anatolien beschrieben und von ähnlichen Arten der Gattung unterschieden. Die primären und sekundären Sexualmerkmale werden abgebildet. Die Art ist der erste bekannte Vertreter der myrmecophilen Gattung *Dinusa* SAULCY aus der Türkei.

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Author's address: Volker ASSING
Gabelsbergerstr. 2
D-30163 Hannover, Germany
e-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de

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