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A new species of *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 (Coleoptera: Mycetophagidae) from Iran

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A b s t r a c t : A new species of *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 (Mycetophagidae) from the Caspian Sea region (Mazandaran province) of Iran is described. It is the ninth species of the small mycetophagid genus that is restricted to the Palaearctic region.

K e y w o r d s : Mycetophagidae, *Eulagius*, taxonomy, new species, Palaearctic region, Iran.

Introduction

Among numerous specimens of beetles collected in the Hyrcanian beech forests of the Mazandaran Province (Caspian Sea Region, Iran) (MÜLLER et al. 2015) were a few specimens of an unknown *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845. This small genus is distributed in the Palaearctic region and contains so far eight species. The species *Eulagius acernus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 and *E. irregularis* REITTER, 1888 were described and recorded from the Caucasus region (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and adjacent parts of Russia). The former is more or less similar to the new species described below; *E. irregularis* is well distinguished by its irregular punctuation.

Material and methods

The three specimens of the new *Eulagius* were collected as part of the biodiversity project in the Hyrcanian forest in the Caspian Sea region of Iran (MÜLLER et al. 2015). The research area was located in the Mazandaran province. The specimens were trapped by flight interception traps using a non-attracting copper sulfate solution to kill and preserve insects. Two specimens were trapped with traps exposed on *Fagus orientalis*, one with a trap on *Alnus* sp. The specimens were found in September and October.

The material examined is deposited in the following collections:

cES.....Jens ESSER private collection

The morphological studies were conducted using a Euromex DZ 1605. Photographs were created with a TouPCam 14MP (TouPCam).

Body length was measured from the head to the apex of the elytra, length of pronotum in the middle, broadness on the broadest part.

Results

Eulagius hyrcanicus nov.sp.

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Iran, Mazandaran, Sari-Dodangeh-Nejim Forest, 6 km W Part Kola, leg. H. Barimani, IX.2015, 36.139060, 53.408954, 2028 m, Fagus orientalis trap 4" [cES].
Paratypes: 1 ♀ "Iran, Mazandaran, Mazandaran, Sari-Dodangeh-Nejim Forest, 6 km W Part Kola, 2024 m, 36.139060, 53.408954, Fagus orientalis trap 5-6, X.2015, leg. H. Barimani" [cES]; 1 ♂ "Iran, Mazandaran, Sari-Dodangeh-Part Kola-Boola Forest, 1316m 36.041378/53.352420, Alnus trap 4-1, V.2015 leg. H. Barimani" [cES].

Description: Male, 4.1 mm (up to 4.3 mm in paratypes), reddish brown. Body elongate, sides of elytra slightly rounded on apex, nearly straight in the anterior part (fig. 1). Pubescence sparse and long (one hair long as three or four diameter of punctures), hairs outstanding.

Head width 0.7 mm, eyes hemispherical. Punctures strong and sparse. Distance between the punctures of one diameter or wider.

Pronotum transverse, length 0.8 mm, width: 1.2 mm, sides rounded, serrate with more or less ten irregular teeth. Punctures strong and sparse. Distance between the punctures of one diameter or wider.

Elytra maximum width 1.7 mm, each with ten complete and one short striae besides the scutellum. Striae with strong punctures, diameter like on the pronotum, distance less one diameter.

Antennae without club, only very moderately widened to apex. Article 6-11 with dense and short pubescence, 8-10 near quadrate, 6-7 slightly longer, 11 elongate. Segments 1-5 elongate, 3-5 longer than 1-2.

Legs elongate, with three visible tarsomeres on anterior legs, four on the other.

Aedoeagus like in fig. 2.

Comment: Species with regular striae, uniformly reddish brown. Distinguished from *E. acernus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 by its larger and more elongated habitus, from *filicornis* REITTER, 1887 by its uniformly colouration. All other species with regular striae on elytra occur to the East Palaearctic. *E. irregularis* REITTER, 1888 (like *E. chinensis* NIKITSKY, 1996 and *E. ussuriensis* NIKITSKY, 1988) have irregulare striae on elytra.

Distribution: Known from the Caspian Sea Region, Iran, Mazandaran Province.

Key for the species of *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 from the Western Palaearctic

- 1 Elytra with regular striae of punctures2
- Elytra with irregular punctures..... *irregularis* REITTER, 1888
 Remark: species from the Eastern Palaearctic with irregular punctures on elytra are also: *E. chinensis* NIKITSKY, 1996, *E. ussuriensis* NIKITSKY, 1988
- 2 Spaces between striae with finer and sparser puncture (also, more or less, in rows), diameter half of the puncture of striae, distance two diameter. Elytra bicoloured.....
 *filicornis* REITTER, 1887
- 3 Smaller, less elongate, legs and antennae stout, puncture of pronotum denser
 *acernus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845

- Larger, elongate, legs and antennae slender, puncture of pronotum sparse*hyrcanicus* nov.sp.

Remark: also with regular stria: *E. dentatus* NIKITSKY, 1988, *E. lewisi* REITTER, 1889, *E. reitteri* LEWIS, 1896

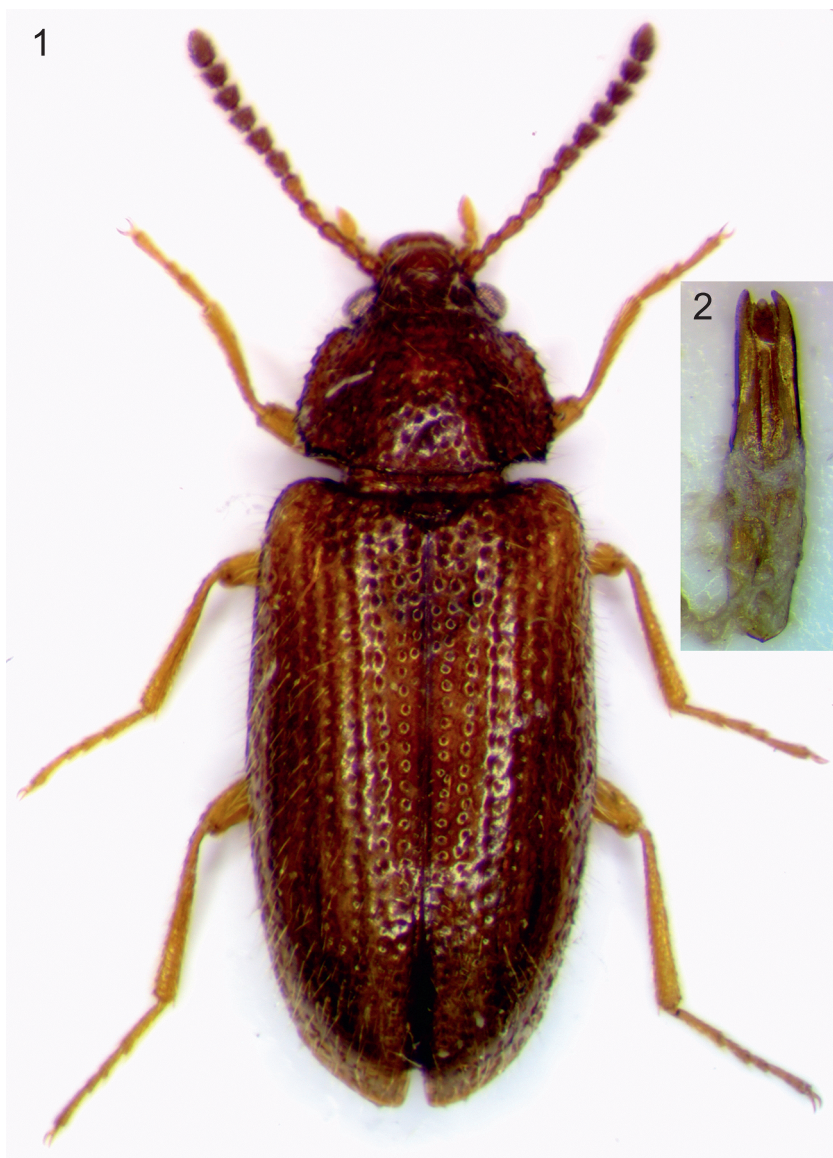


Fig. 1-2: (1) *Eulagius hyrcanicus* nov.sp., holotype, male, habitus, dorsal view; (2) *Eulagius hyrcanicus* nov.sp., holotype, male, aedoeagus, dorsal view.

Catalogue of *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845

<i>acernus</i> MOTSCHULSKY, 1845	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, South Russia
<i>univestris</i> REITTER, 1878	
<i>chinensis</i> NIKITSKY, 1996	China: Sichuan
<i>dentatus</i> NIKITSKY, 1988	Russia: Far East
<i>filicornis</i> REITTER, 1887	Algeria, Britain, France, Spain, Tunisia
<i>boissyi</i> CALLIOL, 1925	
<i>hyrcanicus</i> nov.sp.	Iran: Elburs mountains
<i>irregularis</i> REITTER, 1888	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, South Russia
<i>lewis</i> REITTER, 1889	Japan, Taiwan*
<i>reitteri</i> LEWIS, 1896**	Japan, Russia: Far East
<i>ussuriensis</i> NIKITSKY, 1988	Japan, Russia: Far East
<i>irregularis</i> MIYATAKE, 1985	

* NIKITSKY (2008) mentioned "TA"; it is not certain whether he mean Taiwan or Tianjin (China).

**not 1895 as NIKITSKY (2008) stated

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Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Art der Gattung *Eulagius* MOTSCHULSKY, 1845 (Mycetophagidae) aus den Hyrcanischen Wälder am Kaspischen Meer im Iran wird beschrieben. Es ist die neunte Art der artenarmen Gattung, die auf die Paläarktis beschränkt ist.

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