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A revision of the Palaearctic species of *Myrmecopora* SAULCY, 1864. IV. A new species from Turkey and additional records

(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Falagriini)

With 8 figures and 1 map

VOLKER ASSING

Summary

Myrmecopora (s. str.) *ciliciana* sp. n. from southern Anatolia, a myrmecophilous species associated with ants of the genus *Messor* FOREL, is described, figured, and distinguished from similar congeners of *Myrmecopora* s. str. Additional records are presented for several species of *Myrmecopora* SAULCY, among them the recently described *M.* (s. str.) *wunderlei* ASSING, whose known area of distribution is mapped.

Key words

Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Aleocharinae - Falagriini - Myrmecopora - Palaearctic region - Turkey - taxonomy - new species - new records - myrmecophily

Zusammenfassung

Myrmecopora (s. str.) *ciliciana* sp. n., eine myrmecophile, bei Ameisen der Gattung *Messor* FOREL lebende Art, wird beschrieben und von ähnlichen Arten der Untergattung *Myrmecopora* s. str. unterschieden; Differenzmerkmale werden abgebildet. Bisher unpublizierte Nachweise weiterer *Myrmecopora*-Arten werden vorgelegt, darunter auch neue Funde der erst kürzlich beschriebenen *M.* (s. str.) *wunderlei* ASSING; die derzeit bekannte Verbreitung dieser Art wird anhand einer Karte illustriert.

1. Introduction

The falagriine genus *Myrmecopora* SAULCY was recently revised in three steps and currently includes 25 Palaearctic species in 6 subgenera, the vast majority of them (21 species, 5 subgenera) in the Western Palaearctic region (ASSING, 1997a, 1997b, 1999). While most species of the genus inhabit coastal habitats, the available data suggest that all the species of the Western Palaearctic subgenus *Myrmecopora* s. str. are apparently myrmecophiles strictly associated with ants of the genus *Messor* FOREL. Four species of the subgenus have previously been recorded from Turkey.

During a field trip to southern Anatolia carried out by PAUL WUNDERLE (Mönchengladbach) and myself in December 2000, yet another species of *Myrmecopora* s. str. was discovered in the area northwest of Tarsus (eastern Mersin), so that the subgenus now includes a total of ten species, five of them occurring in Turkey. Apart from the description of this new taxon, additional records of other species of *Myrmecopora* are presented below.

2. Material, measurements, and abbreviations

The material examined is deposited in the following institutions and private collections:

MHNG	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève (G. CUCCODORO)
MNHUB	Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (M. UHLIG)
cAss	author's private collection
cFel	private collection B. FELDMANN, Münster
cMif	private collection D. MIFSUD, Malta
cSol	private collection A. SOLODOVNIKOV, St. Petersburg
cWun	private collection P. WUNDERLE, Mönchengladbach

The measurements are given in mm and abbreviated as follows:

TL:	total length from anterior margin of labrum to apex of abdomen
AL:	length of antennae
HL:	head length from anterior margin of clypeus to neck
HW:	maximal head width
PL:	length of pronotum
PW:	maximal width of pronotum
EL:	length of elytra along suture from apex of scutellum to posterior margin
HTiL:	length of metatibia
HTaL:	length of metatarsus
HT1L:	length of first metatarsomere
HT4L:	combined length of second to fourth metatarsomere.

3. Description of new species and additional records of *Myrmecopora* SAULCY

Myrmecopora (s. str.) *ciliciana* sp. n.

Figs. 1-8, Map 1

Holotype ♂ [with worker of *Messor* cf. *caducus* attached to the same pin]: TR - Mersin, ca. 30 km NNW Tarsus, 580m, No. 8, 37°10'00N, 34°45'40E, fallow with decid. trees, 26.12.2000, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Myrmecopora ciliciana* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2001 (cAss).

Paratypes: 4♂♂, 6♀♀ [one dissected ♀ with mature egg in ovaries], same data as holotype, leg. Assing, Wunderle (cAss, cWun).

Description

Measurements (in mm) and ratios (range; n=5): AL: 1.35 - 1.38 (♂), 1.13 - 1.21 (♀); HL: 0.41 - 0.44; HW: 0.48 - 0.57; PL: 0.42 - 0.48; PW: 0.50 - 0.57; EL: 0.36 - 0.42; HTiL: 0.60 - 0.68; HTaL: 0.56 - 0.62; HT1L: 0.21 - 0.24; HT4L: 0.23 - 0.24; TL: 3.2 - 3.8; HW/HL: 1.14 - 1.27; PW/HW: 1.00 - 1.07; PW/PL: 1.15 - 1.19; EL/PL: 0.81 - 0.90; HTaL/HTiL: 0.91 - 0.93; HT1L/HT4L: 0.91 - 1.00.

In general appearance similar to *M. pygmaea* (SACHSE). Colour of body dark brown, with the elytra, the posterior margins of the abdominal terga, and sometimes also the anterior parts of the anterior abdominal terga light brown to reddish brown; legs testaceous; antennae ferruginous.

Head distinctly transverse (see ratio HW/HL), with fine and sparse puncturation; in ♂ dorsally with pronounced posterior impression, in ♀ without such impression. Anten-

nae moderately long (shorter than in *M. pygmaea*) and with sexual dimorphism: in ♂ longer (see measurements), preapical antennomeres approximately as wide as long; in ♀ shorter and with slightly transverse preapical antennomeres (Figs. 7, 8).

Pronotum distinctly transverse (see ratio PW/PL) and with pronounced sexual dimorphism: in ♂ with broad (approximately half the width of pronotum) and deep median impression extending over whole length of pronotum and with dense and granulose puncturation; in ♀ with narrow and shallow median impression and with finer puncturation.

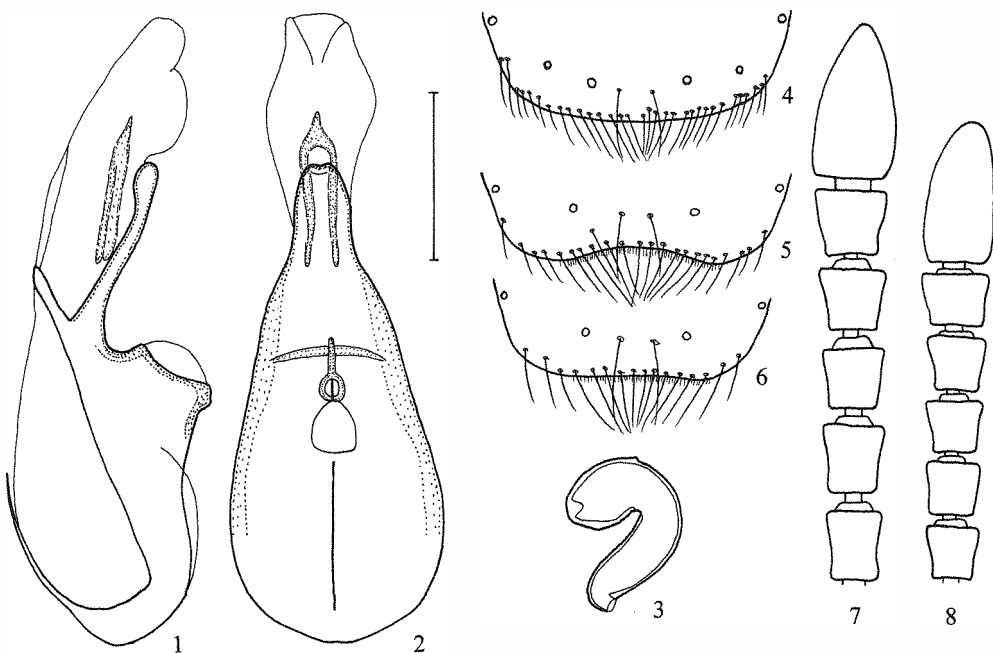
Elytra at suture slightly shorter than pronotum (see ratio EL/PL) and with fine and rather dense puncturation.

Legs long and slender; metatarsi almost as long as metatibiae (see ratio HTaL/HTiL); first metatarsomere approximately as long as the combined length of the three following tarsomeres (see ratio HT1L/HT4L).

Abdomen with fine and relatively dense puncturation.

♂: sternum VIII posteriorly weakly convex and with long marginal setae (Fig. 4); aedeagus with ventral process of median lobe abruptly narrowed in ventral view (Figs. 1, 2).

♀: sternum VIII posteriorly ± concave and with long thin marginal setae (Figs. 5, 6); spermatheca as in Fig. 3.



Figs. 1-8: *Myrmecopora ciliciana* sp. n.: median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view (1, 2); spermatheca (3); posterior margin of ♂ sternum VIII (4); posterior margin of ♀ sternum VIII of two ♀♀ (5, 6); apical half of antenna of ♂ (7) and ♀ (8). Scale: 0.2 mm.

Derivatio nominis: The name (adj.) is derived from Cilicia, the ancient name of the region where the species was discovered.

Comparative notes

From the externally similar *M. pygmaea* from the Balkans, *M. ciliciana* is distinguished especially by the shorter antennae with less elongate antennomeres, the more pronounced impressions on the ♂ head and pronotum, and by the shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus, which is weakly and smoothly tapering apically in *M. pygmaea*. From *M. wunderlei* ASSING, which, too, occurs in southern Anatolia, the new species is readily separated by the much shorter legs and antennae (see figures in ASSING, 1997a), by the more transverse pronotum, and by the morphology of the aedeagus. In *M. publicana* SAULCY, whose distribution ranges from Israel to southern Anatolia (Antakya) and in which the aedeagus and antennae are of similar morphology, the pronotum is less transverse, the head is on average more weakly transverse, the impression on the ♂ head is less pronounced and more distant from the posterior margin of the head, the impression on the ♂ pronotum is usually narrower, shorter (though sometimes equally deep), and finely punctate, the aedeagus is smaller, the posterior margin of the ♀ sternum VIII is not concave, and the capsule of the spermatheca is of different shape (see figures in ASSING, 1997a).

In order to accommodate the new species, the key in ASSING (1997a) is modified as follows:

5. Small species (TL: 2.5 - 3.2). Antennae shorter (AL: 0.95 - 1.16 mm); antennomeres IV - IX subquadrate (♀) to weakly oblong (♂), and X subquadrate or slightly transverse. Legs, especially tarsi, relatively short (HTaL: 0.50 - 0.61 mm). Eyes larger, approximately as long as postgenae in dorsal view. Dorsal surface of head and pronotum distinctly convex; the latter strongly transverse (PW/PL: 1.22 - 1.35). Sexual dimorphism very indistinct: ♂ with very faint, almost obsolete dorsal impression on head, pronotum with roughly triangular shallow median impression near posterior margin and very fine and narrow, almost obsolete sulcus along median line; ♀ pronotum with shallow triangular impression, occasionally with short and sulcate anterior extension. ♂: ventral process of median lobe relatively wide and short in ventral view (Fig. 4a in ASSING, 1997a). ♀: spermatheca similar to that in *M. pygmaea* (Fig. 4b in ASSING, 1997a). Recorded from western Anatolia and the southeast of Bulgaria. **M. (s. str.) convexula** ASSING
- Dorsal surface of head and pronotum less convex, sometimes even flattened. Pronotum less strongly transverse. Antennae longer (AL: >1.10 mm) and in most species with more slender antennomeres. Eyes relatively smaller, usually distinctly shorter than postgenae in dorsal view. Sexual dimorphism usually more pronounced: ♂ mostly with ± deep dorsal impression on head, pronotum generally with broader longitudinal impression; ♀ usually with more extensive impression in posterior half of pronotum. 5a
- 5a. Antennae relatively shorter and less slender, antennomere IV in ♂ less than 1.5x as long as wide and in ♀ only indistinctly oblong, antennomere X approximately as wide as long (♂) or weakly transverse (♀) (Figs. 7, 8). Pronotum with pronounced sexual dimorphism, in ♂ with broad (ca. half the width of pronotum) and deep median impression extending over whole length of pronotum and with rather dense and distinctly granulose puncturation. ♂: aedeagus with ventral process of median lobe in ventral view abruptly tapering (Figs. 1, 2). ♀: spermatheca as in Fig. 3. Central southern Anatolia (Mersin). **M. (s. str.) ciliciana** sp. n.
- Antennae relatively longer and more slender, antennomere IV at least 1.5x as long as wide and antennomere X usually distinctly oblong. Pronotum in ♂ with weaker or differently shaped impression and at most with weakly granulose puncturation. ♂: aedeagus of different morphology. Absent from Turkey, except for one species from southwestern Anatolia. 6

Distribution and bionomics

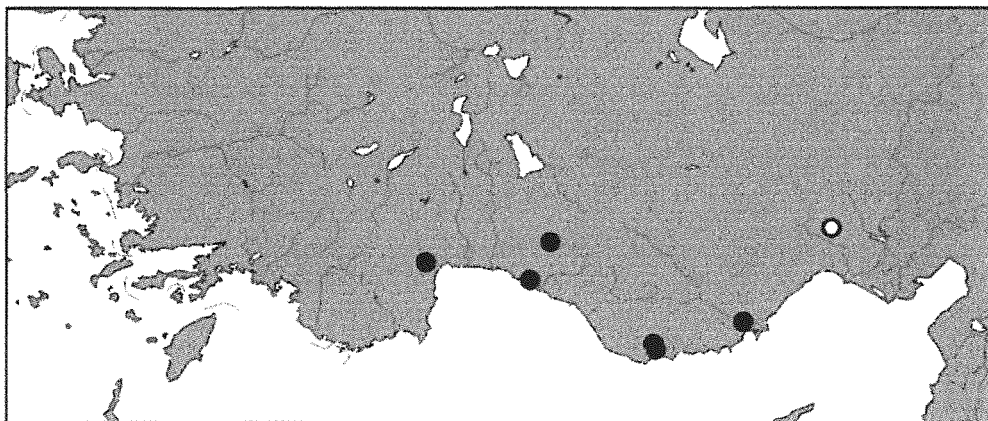
The types were found some 30 km northwest of Tarsus in the east of the province Mersin, central southern Anatolia (Map 1). They were collected in two ant nests under stones in a fallow with some deciduous trees and surrounded by agricultural land (elevation: 580m). The host ant is apparently the same species (*Messor* cf. *caducus* (VICTOR)) as that of *Myrmecopora pygmaea* and *M. wunderlei* (see ASSING (1997a, 1999) and records of *M. wunderlei* below). One dissected female had a mature egg in the ovaries, so reproduction apparently takes place in winter.

Myrmecopora (s. str.) *wunderlei* ASSING

Map 1

Material examined: Turkey (southern Anatolia): 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Antalya env., road to Saklikent, 500m, under stones, 10.V.2000, leg. Meybohm (cAss); 1 ♀, Mersin, road from Anamur to Ermenek, km 21, 350m, 17.V.2000, leg. Meybohm & Brachat (cAss); 1 ♀, Mersin, N Anamur, 36°12'N, 32°53'E, 800m, 17.V.2000, leg. Meybohm (cAss); 3 ♂♂, 1 ♀ (partly teneral), same data, but 19.V.2000, with *Messor caducus* (cAss); 10 ♂♂, 12 ♀♀, Mersin, ca. 15 km W Silifke, 36°22'43"N, 33°49'34"E, 475m, roadside, with *Messor caducus*, 27.XII.2000, leg. Assing, Wunderle (cAss, cWun).

M. wunderlei is here for the first time recorded after its description. Its known area of distribution now ranges from the area west of Antalya to Silifke (Mersin) in southern Anatolia (Map 1). Two specimens collected in May were teneral suggesting that larval development takes place in winter and early spring.



Map 1: Distribution of *Myrmecopora wunderlei* ASSING (filled circles) and *M. ciliciana* sp. n. (open circle) in southern Anatolia (Turkey).

***Myrmecopora (Ilius) fugax* (ERICHSON)**

Material examined: **Spain:** 1 ♀, E-Mallorca, Son Carrio, garden refuse, IV.2000, leg. Feldmann (cFel). **Israel:** 2 ♂ ♂, 3 ♀ ♀, Golan, Mahjar, 200m, 27.IV.1982, leg. Besuchet & Löbl (MHNG, cAss).

***Myrmecopora (Paraxenus) laesa* (ERICHSON)**

Material examined: **Malta:** 1 ♂, 4 ♀ ♀, St. Thomas Bay, 12.V.1990, leg. Mifsud (cMif, cAss); 5 ♂ ♂ ♀, 3 ♀ ♀, Dragonara, 10.IX.1989, leg. Mifsud (cMif, cAss); 1 ♀, Gnejna, 9.V.1990, leg. Mifsud (cMif); 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Gozo, Famla, 8.V.1990, leg. Mifsud (cMif, cAss).

***Myrmecopora (Xenus) uvida* (ERICHSON)**

Material examined: **Russian Federation:** 13 ♂ ♂, 11 ♀ ♀, Krasnodar Territory, near Taman, seashore, 13.V.1995, leg. Solodovnikov (cSol, cAss).

***Myrmecopora (Xenus) bernhaueri* KOCH**

Material examined: **Egypt:** 12 ♂ ♂, 10 ♀ ♀, Hurdagha (= Al Ghardaqah), coast of Red Sea, in seaweed, 1.-7.XII.1991, leg. Uhlig (MNHUB, cAss); 3 ♂ ♂, 5 ♀ ♀, Sinai, Dahab, beach, III.1989, leg. Balke (MNHUB, cAss).

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