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***Belonuchus minax* Erichson, 1840**
redescription and lectotype designation
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

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Abstract

Belonuchus minax ERICHSON, 1840 is removed from synonymy with *Belonuchus gagates* ERICHSON, 1840, redescribed, illustrated and a lectotype is designated.

This paper contains a redescription and lectotype designation for *Belonuchus minax* ERICHSON, 1840, resulting from my current work on the revision of the genus *Belonuchus* NORDMANN, 1837 of America north of Mexico.

The species was described from specimens from the Virgin Islands. It was subsequently considered a junior synonym of *Belonuchus gagates* ERICHSON, 1840 by BLACKWELDER (1943: 424, 1957: 424). Based on examination of the type series, *Belonuchus minax* is removed from synonymy.

A complete description and illustration of *B. gagates* will be available in my upcoming revision. *Belonuchus gagates* is at present known from the West Indies and from the Florida Keys.

***Belonuchus minax* ERICHSON**

Belonuchus minax ERICHSON, 1840: 424

In all character states very similar to *B. gagates*, but different as follows: antennae piceous, first three segments rufo-testaceous, last two segments more or less paler, mostly ferrugineous; palpi and legs uniformly rufo-testaceous. Punctuation of elytra finer, more superficial and somewhat less dense than in most specimens of *B. gagates*.

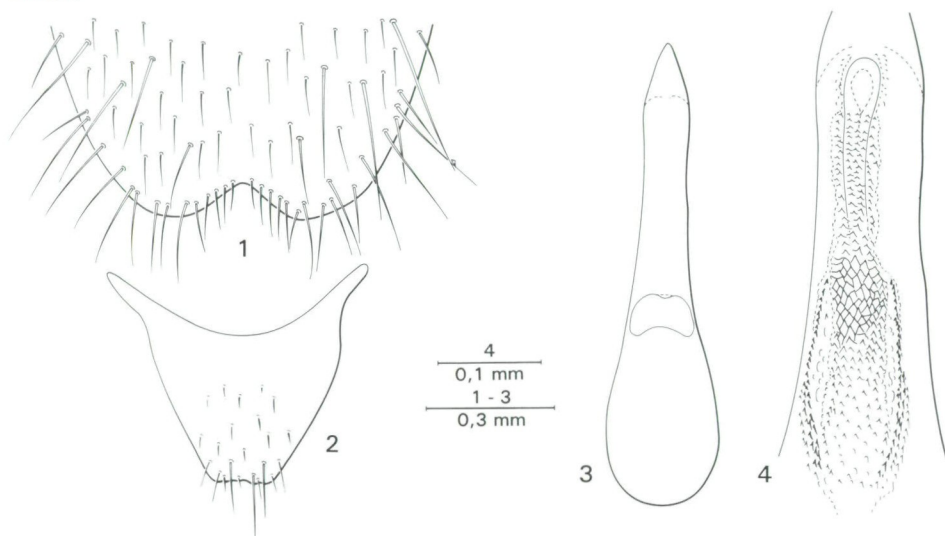
Male: Posterior lower edge of front femur with spine-like setae similar to those of *B. gagates*. Medio-apical emargination of sternite 8 somewhat wider and deeper than that of *B. gagates* (Fig. 1). Genital segment with tergite 10 similar to that of *B. gagates*, but somewhat wider and shorter (Fig. 2). Aedoeagus (Figs. 3, 4) elongate; median lobe subparallel-sided in middle portion and then narrowed into simple, subacute apical portion (apical portion sharply lancet-shaped in *B. gagates*); paramere short, transverse, similar to that of *B. gagates*; internal sac as in Fig. 4, with long, narrow median sclerite (missing in *B. gagates*).

Female: Genital segment not appreciable different from that of *B. gagates*.

Length: 6.2 - 7.8 mm.

TYPE MATERIAL: ERICHSON (1840) described the species from specimens from the Virgin Islands ("Habitat in Americae insulis St. Thomae and St. Johannis, Dom. Moritz"). The Erichson collection in the Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany, contains four conspecific specimens under the name *B. minax*. They are labelled as follows: No. 1 (male): "6016" / "minax Er. St. Jean St. Thomas Mor." / "Zool.Mus.Berlin". The remaining three specimens (two males, one female) each bear the labels "St. Thomas Moritz I-Nr.6016" and "Zool.Mus.Berlin". The first (male) specimen was dissected; the abdominal segment 8, the genital segment, and the aedoeagus were mounted in Canada balsam on transparent plates and attached to the specimen. The

Distribution: *Belonuchus minax* is at present known only from the Virgin Islands in the West Indies.



Figs. 1-4: *Belonuchus minax*, (1) male sternite 8, (2) male tergite 10, (3) aedoeagus and (4) median lobe of aedoeagus with internal sac.

Acknowledgements

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Zusammenfassung

Belonuchus minax ERICHSON, 1840 ist kein Synonym von *B. gagates* ERICHSON, 1840. *Belonuchus minax* wird wiederbeschrieben, ein Lectotypus wird festgelegt.

References

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