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## A new species of *Leptusa* KRAATZ, 1856 from the Italian Alps (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

V. ASSING

### Abstract

*Leptusa janbellini* sp.n. (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae) is described from the Monte Pavione (Dolomiti Bellunesi, Veneto) in northern Italy. It is attributed to the subgenus *Nanopisalia* PACE and distinguished from related congeners. The primary and secondary sexual characters are figured.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Leptusa*, new species, taxonomy, Italy, Alps.

### Introduction

A multitude of species of *Leptusa* KRAATZ, a genus thoroughly revised by PACE (1989), are known from the Alps. Most of them are confined to higher, usually alpine altitudes and more or less endemic to individual mountain ranges or mountain peaks. Although the staphylinid fauna of the Alps can be considered to be relatively well-studied, as compared to many other mountain ranges in southern Europe, several new species of alpine *Leptusa* have been discovered in recent years, mainly owing to the specialized and systematic collecting activity of Manfred Kahlen, Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck (KAHLEN & PACE 1993, PACE 1996, 1999). It is, therefore, not particularly surprising that an excursion to the Dolomiti Bellunesi in July 2000 led to the discovery of yet another new *Leptusa*, which is described below.

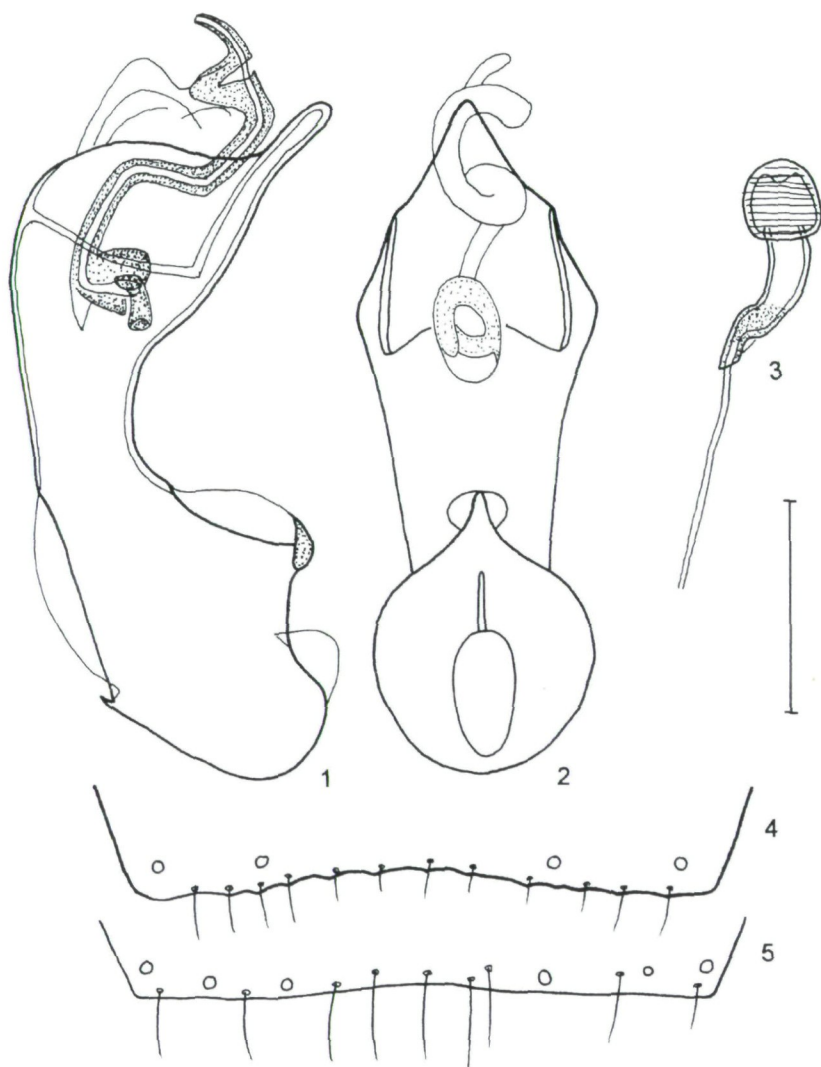
### *Leptusa janbellini* sp.n.

(Figs. 1 - 5)

**TYPE MATERIAL:** Holotype ♂: "I-Veneto, ca. 15 km NW Feltre, M. Pavione, N-slope of peak region, 46°05N, 11°49E, 2100m, 26.VII.2000 V. Assing 3 / Holotypus ♂ *Leptusa janbellini* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2000" (coll. Assing). **Paratypes:** 7♂♂, 5♀♀: same data as holotype (coll. Kahlen in Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck, colls. Assing, Pace, Wunderle).

**DESCRIPTION:** 1.8 - 2.3 mm. Forebody brown to blackish brown; abdomen blackish, sometimes with segments III and IV slightly lighter; appendages testaceous to light brown.

Head subcircular, approximately as wide as pronotum; eyes small, their diameter shorter than antennomere II; integument with relatively sparse and shallow puncturation, with distinct microreticulation and subdued shine. Pronotum 1.16 - 1.19 times as wide as long, more strongly tapering caudad than cephalad, widest near anterior angles, and with very fine puncturation, which is barely noticeable in the dense and distinct microreticulation. Elytra approximately as wide as and at suture 0.6 times as long as pronotum; surface with rather dense, coarse, and distinctly granulose puncturation; microsculpture shallower than that of pronotum; hind wings reduced. Legs and antennae of similar length and proportions as in *L. piceata* (MULSANT & REY). Abdomen slightly broadening posteriorly, widest at posterior margin of segment VI, and wider than elytra; puncturation fine and sparse.



Figs. 1 - 5: *Leptusa janbellini* sp.n. 1) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; 2) median lobe of aedeagus in ventral view; 3) spermatheca; 4) posterior margin of ♂ tergum VIII, long setae omitted; 5) posterior margin of ♀ tergum VIII, long setae omitted. Scale: 0.1 mm.

♂: tergum VII unmodified; tergum VIII posteriorly concave and weakly serrate (Fig. 4); sternum VIII posteriorly indistinctly pointed; median lobe of aedeagus of somewhat similar shape as in *L. piceata*, but ventral process longer and more slender, basal plates (terminology as in PACE 1989) of different shape, smaller, and more weakly sclerotized, and internal tube longer, apically projecting and of distinctive shape (Figs. 1-2).

♀: posterior margin of tergum VIII weakly concave, not serrate (Fig. 5), that of sternum VIII weakly pointed, but more so than in ♂; spermatheca as in Fig. 3.

**ETYMOLOGY:** I dedicate this species to my 13-year-old son Jan Bellin, who has accompanied me on so many excursions to the Alps and whom I thank for his patience and understanding, his perseverance, many interesting conversations, and his assistance in collecting Staphylinidae.

**SYSTEMATICS AND COMPARATIVE NOTES:** Based on the morphology of the aedeagus, especially the shape of the median lobe as well as the shape and (relative) position of the internal tube and the basal plates, *L. janbellini* is referred to the subgenus *Nanopisalia* PACE. This systematic position is also supported by the morphology of the spermatheca and by external characters. Regarding the male sexual characters, the new species is most similar to *Leptusa* (*Nanopisalia*) *tarvisiana* PACE (M. Mariech, Treviso) and *L. (N.) portusnaoniensis* PACE (Claut, Pordenone). From both species (and from other species of *Nanopisalia*), it is distinguished particularly by the apically longer, more slender (lateral view), and subapically distinctly dilated (ventral view) ventral process of the median lobe, the more pronounced crista apicalis and crista proximalis, the shape of the basal plates, and by the longer and apically distinctly coiled internal tube. For comparison, the figures in PACE (1989: 195) are referred to.

**DISTRIBUTION AND BIONOMICS:** The type locality of *Leptusa janbellini*, the Monte Pavione, is located in the western Dolomiti Bellunesi, some 30 km west of Belluno. The types were sifted from grass, moss, plant debris, etc. in the shade of big rocks at an altitude of ca. 2100 m, together with *Leptusa pseudoalpestris* SCHEERPELTZ, *L. occulta* PACE, and *L. manfredi* PACE.

### Acknowledgement

I am most grateful to Manfred Kahlen (Tiroler Landesmuseum Ferdinandeum, Innsbruck) for helpful discussions, for examining the new species, and for critically reviewing the manuscript.

### Zusammenfassung

*Leptusa* (*Nanopisalia*) *janbellini* sp.n. wird vom Monte Pavione (Dolomiti Bellunesi, Veneto) in Norditalien beschrieben und von verwandten Arten unterschieden. Die primären und sekundären Sexualmerkmale werden abgebildet.

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Autor(en)/Author(s): Assing Volker

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