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A new Iberian species of *Corticaria* MARSHAM in the *C. sylvicola* group (Coleoptera: Latridiidae)

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Abstract

Corticaria rueckeri sp.n. (Coleoptera: Latridiidae) is described from the Iberian Peninsula.

Key words: Coleoptera, Latridiidae, *Corticaria*, new species, Iberian Peninsula, Spain.

Introduction

Taxonomically, the genus *Corticaria* MARSHAM is considered a difficult group. Within this genus, the *C. sylvicola* group comprises a number of species with West Mediterranean distribution and several well-differentiated morphological characteristics. DAJOZ (1969, 1970) defined the characteristics of this group as follows: elytral pubescence long and raised; body short and convex; pronotum with denticles well marked; elytra with regular punctation; metaventrite shorter than the first abdominal ventrite.

During examination of material from the USC we have found that some specimens previously identified as *C. convexa* REITTER belong to a new species which we describe below.

Material and methods

Terminology and measurements for the new species follow OTERO (1997, 2001).

Large structures were measured under an Olympus SZX12 stereomicroscope equipped with an image analysis system (MicroImage Version 4.0 for Windows). Smaller structures were analyzed using a scanning electron microscope.

Acknowledgements and acronyms

We would like to thank Dr. R. Outerelo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), for his tireless work gathering material, to Dr. O. Merkl (Hungarian Museum of Natural History) for the loan of type material, and W. Rücker for his ever-useful comments. This work has been subsidized by the subproject CGL 2004-04680-CLO-07 of the Ministerio de Educación y Ciencia.

Types are deposited at the following institutions:

BMNH	The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.
MNCN	Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain
MNHG	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Geneva, Switzerland
MNHNP	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
MNHUB	Museum für Naturkunde, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany
MZLU	Museum of Zoology and Entomology, Lund University, Sweden
NMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria
USC	Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, Spain
WR	coll. Wolfgang Rücker, Neuwied, Germany

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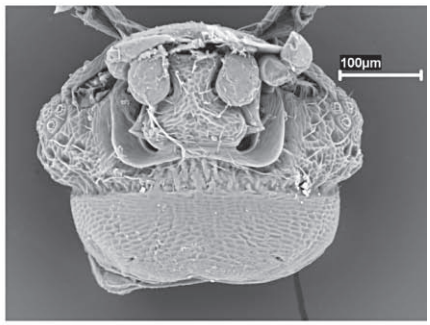

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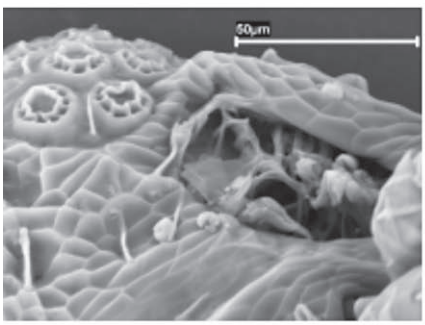

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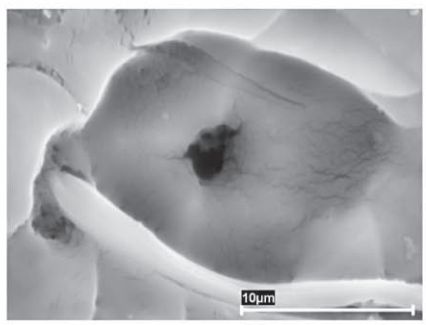

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Figs. 1–4: *Corticaria rueckeri* sp.n.; 1) dorsal habitus; 2) frontal view of cephalic pits; 3) left cephalic pit; 4) detail of pronotal puncture.

***Corticaria rueckeri* sp.n.**

TYPE LOCALTY: Puerto de la Morcuera, Madrid, Spain.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (USC): Puerto de la Morcuera, Madrid, 21.X.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. **Paratypes**: 1 ♂ (MNCN): Valdemartín, Madrid, 11.XI.1974, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (MNCN): Navacerrada, Madrid, 18.V.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (USC): Arroyo Sestil, Maílo, Madrid, 21.X.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (USC): Arroyo Sestil,

Maílo, Madrid, 4.III.1977, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (USC): Puente de la Cantina, Segovia, 20.V.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♂ (MNHG): Puerto de la Morcuera, Madrid, 21.X.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♂ (USC): Puerto de Malagón, Madrid, 24.II.1976, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♂ (MZLU): El Escorial, Madrid, 3.IX.1977, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♂ (NMW): Garganta de río Moros, El Espinar, Segovia, 26.V.1977, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♂ (MNHUB): Monte El Petril, El Espinar, Segovia, 25.VI.1977, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (WR): Puerto de los Leones, Segovia, 2.X.1975, leg. R. Outerelo. 1 ♀ (MNHNP): Puerto de Mijares, Sierra de Gredos, Ávila, 1.XI.1975, leg. L. Gil. 1 ♂ (USC): same date as holotype. 1 ♀ (BMNH): Lana de la Cueva, Ávila, 31.III.1976, leg. R. Outerelo.

DESCRIPTION: Male. Length: 1.7–1.8 mm. Body oval, convex (Fig. 1). Color yellowish brown to straw-colored. Punctation present on entire body (Ø 20 µm), with a small orifice of unknown function at the base of each puncture (Fig. 4). Eight punctate striae on each elytron. Setae (L: 60–70 µm) long and white. Wingless.

Head transverse and slightly pointed towards apex, 2.3 times wider than long. Eyes medium-sized (L: 80 µm) and scarcely prominent (E: 0.63), with 25 ocelli (Ø 18–20 µm). Temples visible, somewhat shorter (L: 63–65 µm) than eyes. Antennae (Fig. 6) with 11 antennomeres, extending to the posterior third of pronotum (L: 500 µm). First antennomere 1.5 times as wide as second; second oval, two times as wide as third; third three times as long as wide; fourth, fifth and sixth almost two times as long as wide; seventh only slightly longer than wide; eighth subsquare; ninth, tenth and eleventh longer than wide, forming well-developed club. Between the eyes and the mouth, below the clypeus and the frons, there are two conspicuous pits (Figs. 2, 3, 5), blind-ended and broadly conical, converging to the center of the head, and reaching half the depth of the eyes; the openings of these pits are visible in frontal view (Ø 30–35 µm) (Fig. 2), slightly inclined with respect to the sagittal plane. The function of the cephalic pits is not known, but may be related to hygrosensation.

Prothorax convex, 0.2–0.4 times as wide as long; widest near middle. Anterior and posterior margins of similar width. Basal pit faintly marked. Margins rounded, with 6–8 well-marked denticles, the posterior denticle the largest.

First abdominal ventrite one third as long as metaventrite. Scutellum transverse, flat. Elytra oval, elongate (L: 1100 µm, W: 730 µm), 1.6 times as long as wide. Elytron 2.6–3.0 times as long as pronotum, and 0.65 times as wide as pronotum. Lateral margin faintly marked, except in its anterior part.

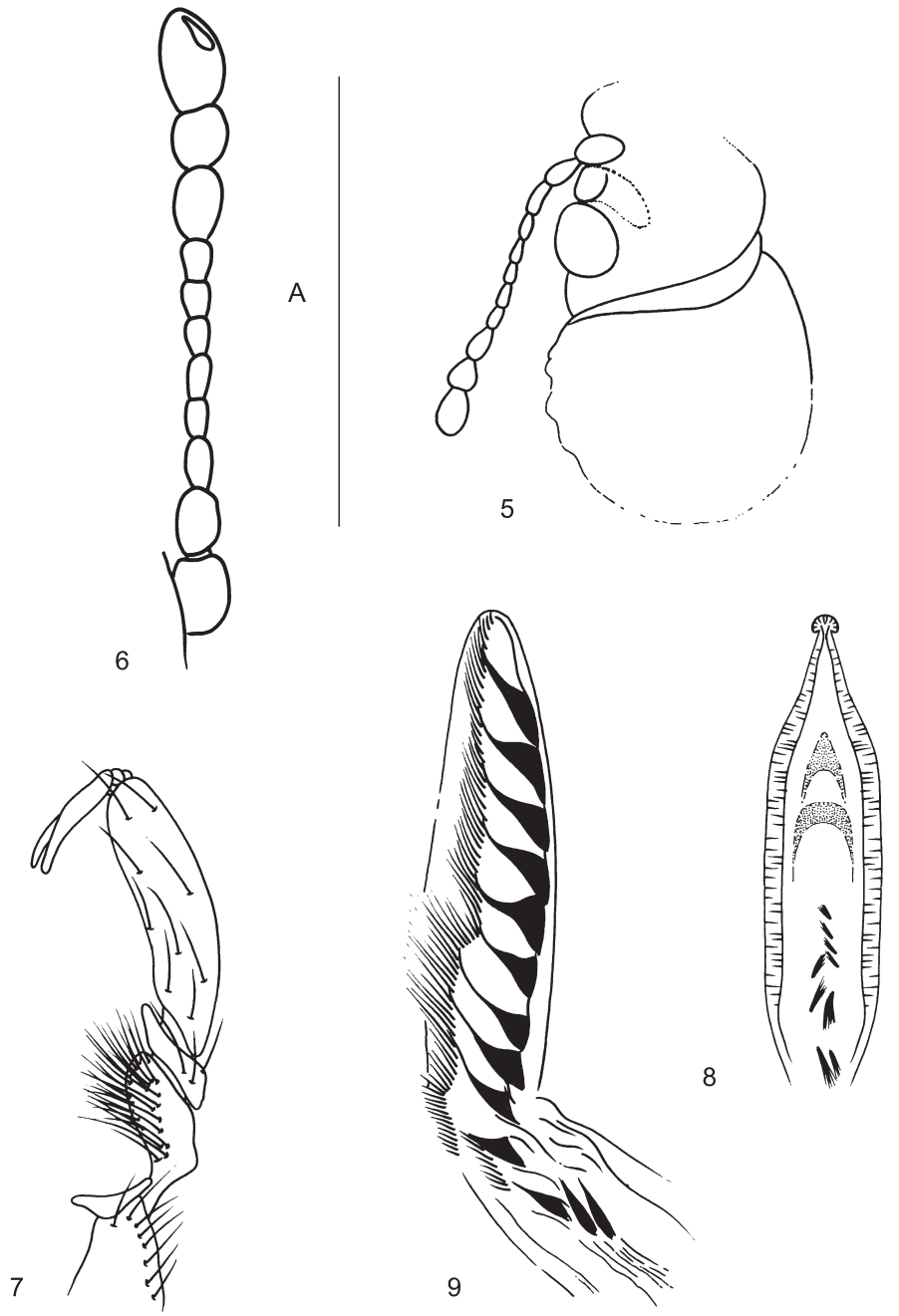
Tibiae with spine on the internal apical angle (Fig. 7), longer on protibiae, more conspicuous in males.

Aedeagus (Fig. 8) elongate and acuminate towards apical fourth, where it is triangular lance-shaped. Apex arrowhead-like. In lateral view, the aedeagus forms a descending curve accentuated at the anterior tip. Internal sac (Fig. 9) with one row of sclerotized rods, and a second row of smaller spines running parallel to the first row.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS: Within the *Corticaria sylvicola* group, *C. pinicola* BRISOUT, and *C. rueckeri* are readily differentiated from the remaining species by their elongate elytra, their pronotum markedly narrower than maximum elytral width, and the head somewhat pointed anteriorly.

The basic morphological differences between the two species are as follows: head slightly wider and more transverse in *C. rueckeri*; cephalic pits reaching to about half depth of eyes in *C. rueckeri*, shallower in *C. pinicola*; pronotum widest at middle and with visible basal pit in *C. rueckeri*, clearly heart-shaped, without basal pit in *C. pinicola*; aedeagal apex symmetric and arrowhead-like in *C. rueckeri*, asymmetric and truncate in *C. pinicola*; internal sac with two rows of numerous rods (one row of large rods, one row of small spines) in *C. rueckeri*, with only 2–3 rods in *C. pinicola*.

ETYMOLOGY: This species is named in honour of Wolfgang Rücker.



Figs. 5–9: *Corticaria rueckeri* sp.n.; 5) relative depth of the cephalic pits; 6) right antenna (A: 358 µm); 7) protibial apex; 8) aedeagus (A: 427 µm); 9) internal sac.

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