Revision of the Palearctic species of the

**genus Ochthebius LEACH**

XXII. **Description of a new species of the O. metallescens group from Spain**

(Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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**Abstract**

Ochthebius judemaesi sp.n. (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae), a member of the Ochthebius metallescens group, is described from southeastern Spain.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, Ochthebius metallescens group, new species, Spain.

**Introduction**

The Ochthebius (s.str.) metallescens ROSENHAUER species group has been treated extensively by JÄCH (1989, 1999, 2000, 2001). In the three latter papers four new species were described from Spain (Iberian Peninsula and Balearic Islands).

During a recent revision of the Iberian species of Ochthebius LEACH, several specimens from southeastern Spain, previously identified as O. metallescens (e.g. by DELGADO & SOLER 1997), were found to represent a new species, which is described herein. It is the seventh member of this species group in the Iberian Peninsula.

**Acronyms:**

CDM  **Coll. Delgado, Murcia**

CFE  **Coll. Fresneda, El Pont de Suert**

MCNM  **Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid**

NMW  **Naturhistorisches Museum Wien**

PL  **Projected Length of aedeagus (sensu JÄCH 1998)**

**Ochthebius judemaesi sp.n.**


**TYPE LOCALITY** (Fig. 3): River Segura, ca. 970 m a.s.l., coordinates: 38°10’N 2°33’W, ca. 400 m east of La Toba, 7.5 km south of Santiago de la Espada, Jaén, southeastern Spain.

**TYPE MATERIAL:**

- **Holotype** \( \varphi \) (NMW): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Segura cerca de La Toba, 19-8-[19]91 J.A. Delgado Leg”.
- **Paratypes:** 2 \( \varphi \) (MCNM, CDM), same date and locality data as holotype; 1 \( \varphi \) (CDM): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Madera, 29-7-[19]89 J.A. Delgado leg”; 1 \( \varphi \) (CDM): “SPAIN, Jaén, río Zumeta, 14-3-[19]86”; 2 \( \varphi \) (NMW, CDM): “SPAIN, Albacete, río de las Hoyas, 4-6-[19]83”; 1 \( \varphi \) (CFE): “A[arroyo] Valdecuevas, Cazorla, Jaén 10-7-[19]87 Fresneda leg”.

**DIAGNOSIS:** 1.5 mm long. Colouration varies from very dark brown to black, some specimens with faint bluish metallic reflections; tibiae and femora brown. Disc of head and pronotum
glabrous. Anterior margin of labrum moderately excised. Frons sparsely punctate and micro- 
reticulate. Ocular grooves deeply impressed; ocelli well developed. Pronotal disc moderately 
densely punctate; interstices microreticulate, with some glabrous areas of variable size; 
postocular teeth and postocular emarginations not conspicuously large; anterior angles acute. 
Lateral margins of pronotum in anterior half rather straight, slightly convergent, distinctly 
crenulate; in posterior half distinctly and slightly concavely constricted towards base. Elytra 
oblung; disc with six rows of punctures between suture and shoulder; rows straight and regular; 
punctures not deeply impressed, each with a small seta; intervals between rows rather flat, 
superficially microsculptured. Lateral gutter moderately widely explanate in the middle. 
Metaventral disc entirely pubescent. 

Female slightly larger than male, 1.6–1.7 mm long. Elytral gutter slightly wider than in male. 
Last abdominal tergite with blunt spines. 

Aedeagus (Figs. 1–2): Main piece rather long (PL: 310–320 µm) and rather straight in lateral 
view. Apex of main piece obliquely truncate, ventrally with a group of small subapical bristles; 
phallobase asymmetrical. Parameres inserted near 0.5 of main piece; apices slightly widened, 
with a few, rather short setae; right paramere longer than left one. Distal lobe elongate, strongly 
recurved, crescentic (lateral view), moderately wide (lateral view) and subglobose in basal half 
(ventral view); distal half thin, more or less parallel-sided in lateral view, evenly tapering in 
ventral view; apex rounded. 

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS:Externally, _Ochthebius judemaesi_ sp.n. resembles _O. pedroi_ 
JÄCH (endemic to Mallorca) from which it can be distinguished by the shape of the lateral 
margin of the pronotal “ears” being more straight, by the anterior pronotal angles being less 
acute, by the more dense microreticulation of the pronotal disc and by the elytra being more 
parallel-sided in _O. pedroi_. The new species also resembles _O. aristoteles_ JÄCH from Greece in 
size and body shape, but differs from it clearly by the aedeagus. The aedeagus of the new species 
is also very different from the other members of the _O. metallescens_ species group represented in 
the Iberian Peninsula: the distal lobe is strongly crescentic, almost U-shaped, hook-like, with the 
distal half thin and subacute apically. 

DISTRIBUTION: So far known only from southeastern Spain (Jaén and Albacete). 

HABITAT: The holotype and two paratypes were collected among the stones at the margins of 
River Segura. The river is ca. three m wide and 30–40 cm deep, moderately shaded by bushes 
(_Salix_ sp.) and poplar trees (_Populus nigra_), The river bed and its margins are formed mainly by 
pebbles and gravel. Submerged stones are generally covered by thin coatings of green algae and 
diatoms. Slimy layers of blue-green algae are more frequent close to the margins. Some 
emergent rocks are partially covered with moss. The hydraenid fauna associated with _Ochthebius 
judemaesi_ includes _Limnebius cordobanus_ ORCHYMONT, 1938, _O. bonnairei_ GUILLEBAU, 1896, 

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet is an acronym of Juan Delgado Martinez-Esparza, first-born son of 
the first author. 

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C10-06/BOS).
Figs. 1–2: Aedeagus of *Ochthebius judemaesi* sp.n., 1) lateral view, 2) ventral view.

**References**


Fig. 3: Type locality of *Ochthebius judemaesi*; río Segura near La Toba, Jaén, southeastern Spain.


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