

Description of a new species of *Ubychia* ROST (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Raymondionyminae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Ubychia* ROST (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Raymondionyminae) is described from the Caucasus: *U. solochaul*.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Raymondionyminae, *Ubychia*, taxonomy, new species, Caucasus.

Introduction

The species of the subfamily Raymondionyminae, which *Ubychia* is part of, are known as depigmented, blind beetles, adapted for life in the deep soil. These are rarely encountered in nature or in collections. A revision of the Raymondionyminae was published by OSELLA (1977). This genus is represented in the eastern Mediterranean, from Dalmatia to Iran, probably more wide-spread but undiscovered.

This is the first representative of this genus in the Russian part of the Caucasus. The only specimen was found in a dark forest, on a northern slope, under a deep embedded stone at the base of a large *Platanus orientalis* L. Within short distance there was also a *Buxus sempervirens* L., but no herbs. The altitude was about 300 m.

Ubychia solochaul sp.n.

TYPE LOCALITY: Солох-Аул (Soloch-Aul), Krasnodarskiy Kray, Russia.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype:** Солох-Аул (Soloch-Aul), Krasnodarskiy Kray, Russia, 11 June 2008, Struyve Tim leg.; deposited in the collection of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences.

DIAGNOSIS: Habitus as in Figs. 1–2. Body 2.5 mm long, 0.8 mm wide. Red-brown, rostrum only bent at the basis and end. Dorsally with sparse punctation and with micro-sculpture consisting of fine longitudinal furrows. Scrobes ventrally, separated by a small lamella. This lamella pointed just before the head ending, well visible laterally. Funicle with five segments. Spherical head, eyeless, not protruding. Pronotum broadest near the middle, sides rounded. Ventrally with two keels aside an undepressed canal. Pronotum with very sparse, fine, but good visible punctation, laterally stronger. Punctation of the elytra sparser and a lot finer, barely visible, also at the sides, more or less situated on rows. Lateral base of the elytra elevated. Pronotum and elytra without micro-sculpture and with small erect yellow hairs. Scutellum absent. Broad legs. All tibia with an external teeth, partially with denser yellow hairs. Tarsus short, claws free and simple.



Figs. 1–2: *Ubychia solochaul*, 1) lateral view, 2) dorsal view.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Gerard Woestyn for the nice photographs, Giuseppe Osella for advice and Ward Struyve for control of spelling.

Reference

OSELLA, G. 1977: Revisione della sottofamiglia Raymondionyminae (Coleoptera, Curculionidae). – Memorie del Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona (IIa serie). Sezione Scienze della Vita 1: 1–162.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Koleopterologische Rundschau](#)

Jahr/Year: 2010

Band/Volume: [80_2010](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Struyve Tim

Artikel/Article: [Description of a new species of Ubychia ROST \(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Raymondionyminae\). 203-204](#)