

Koleopterologische Rundschau	83	93–96	Wien, September 2013
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Two new *Philonthina* from Italy (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

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Abstract

Two new species of the subtribe *Philonthina* (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae) are described: *Gabrius settei* (Verona Province) and *Bisnius kappi* (Sicily).

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, *Philonthina*, *Gabrius*, *Bisnius*, new species, Italy, systematics, taxonomy.

Introduction

The *Philonthina* fauna of Europe is regarded as comparatively well studied. But still, every now and then, hitherto unknown species may be discovered, particularly in the Mediterranean area. This paper serves to describe two such very recent discoveries in the genera *Gabrius* STEPHENS, 1829 and *Bisnius* STEPHENS, 1829. The type specimens are deposited in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona (MNV; courtesy of A. Zanetti) and the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (NMW).

Gabrius settei sp.n.

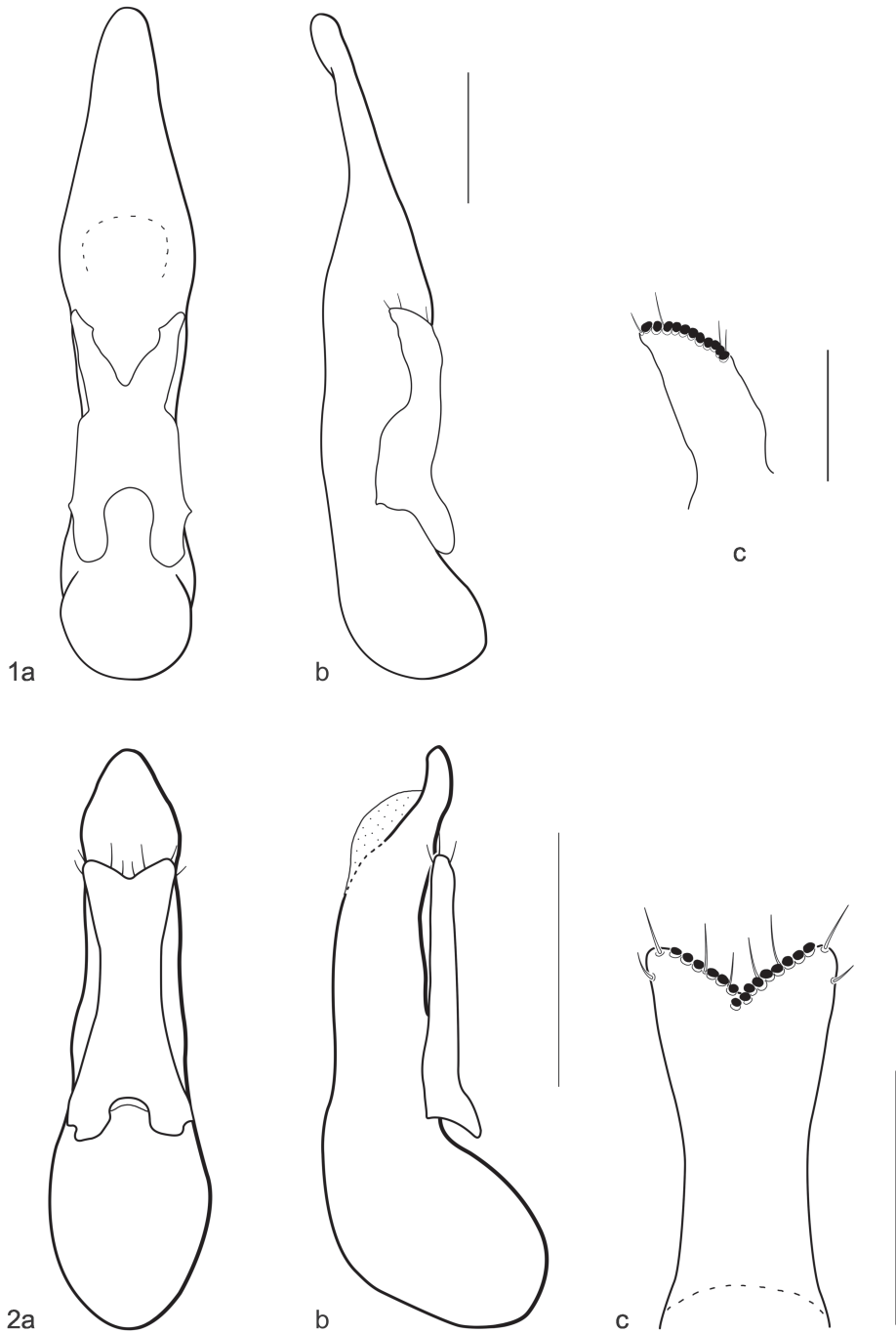
Holotype ♂: “(VR) Lessinia, Val dei Covoli, mt. 900, 6.V.09, leg. Sette” (MNV).

DESCRIPTION: 5.7 mm long (3.2 mm, abdomen excluded). – Head and pronotum black, elytra dark reddish brown, abdomen black with posterior margin of segment VII broadly paler brownish, anterior and posterior margins of segment VIII narrowly reddish brown; antennae black, basal two segments dark reddish brown, distal two segments reddish brown, markedly paler than penultimate segments; legs reddish yellow, medial faces of mesotibiae slightly, those of metatibiae distinctly infuscate.

Head subquadrate, 1.06 times as long as wide; eyes moderately large, tempora 1.4 times as long as eyes; distance between medial interocular punctures roughly four times the distance between medial and lateral interocular puncture, distinctly shifted anteriorly; frons shortly, indistinctly sulcate; surface of head sparsely punctate, with dense and distinct wavy, rather short-meshed microsculpture; antennae with segments 4 and 5 slightly oblong, segments 6 inconspicuously oblong, segments 7–10 about as long as wide; pronotum subparallel-sided, 1.32 times as long as wide; dorsal rows each with six equidistant punctures, third puncture shifted medially; microsculpture similar to that on head; elytra rather coarsely, densely punctate, punctures separated by roughly a puncture diameter in transverse direction; abdominal tergites III–VI with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines densely pubescent; remaining portion of all tergites rather sparsely, finely punctate.

Aedeagus (Fig. 1) very small, with median lobe similar to that of *G. lebedevi* BERNHAUER, 1910 (see SCHILLHAMMER 2003); paramere (Fig. 1a, c) deeply bilobed, peg setae densely arranged along apical margin of each lobe.

Female unknown.



Figs. 1–2: Aedeagus of 1) *Gabrius settei*; 2) *Bisnius kappi*, a) ventral aspect, b) lateral aspect, c) paramere. Scale bar: 0.2 mm (1a, b), 0.1 mm (1c); 0.5 mm (2a, b), 0.25 mm (2c).

DIAGNOSIS: If a similar variability range is assumed, the species does not differ externally from *Gabrius astutoides* (STRAND, 1946).

BIONOMIES: No detailed information on the collecting circumstances is known.

REMARK: *Gabrius astutus* (ERICHSON, 1840) and *G. astutoides* have been regarded as being indistinguishable externally (SCHILLHAMMER 2011). However, during preparation of this paper a possible difference was detected: *G. astutus* has smaller eyes than *G. astutoides*, but this has to be confirmed by measuring large series of both species. The new species occurs sympatrically with both (Zanetti, pers. comm.). *Gabrius astutoides* is known for its wide variability range of the paramere shape, so if it had been for the paramere shape alone, *G. settei* might have been regarded as an extreme variation of *G. astutoides*. However, the shape of the median lobe is too strikingly different to be explained by variability.

DISTRIBUTION: The species is at present known only from the type locality.

ETYMOLOGY: The species is named in honor of Alberto Sette from Ca' degli Oppi (a village near Oppeano, Verona, Italy), who collected the type specimen and is one of the major contributors to the knowledge of the beetle fauna of Verona Province.

Bisnius kappi sp.n.

Holotype ♂: "Italia, Sizilia [Sicilia], 6015, Monte Soro, 1600m, Ges. Wildapfelstreue, 4.2.2008, leg. Ing. Kapp" (NMW).

DESCRIPTION: 6.4 mm long (3.1 mm, abdomen excluded). – Head and pronotum black with hardly discernible brassy-greenish metallic hue, elytra with dark brown disc, scutellum brown; antennomeres black with bases dark reddish brown; abdominal segments dark brown in basal two thirds, posterior third reddish brown; legs reddish brown, medial faces of hind tibiae infusate.

Head 1.07 times as long as wide; tempora parallel for short distance behind eyes, broadly and regularly rounded toward neck, 1.8 times as long as eyes; medial interocular punctures widely separated, smaller than and almost adjacent to lateral ones, slightly shifted anteriad; disc with distinct interocular depression; surface with shortmeshed, transverse microsculpture; antennae with segments 4 and 5 inconspicuously oblong, remaining segments ever so slightly decreasing in length, segments 6–9 about as long as wide, segment 10 weakly transverse; pronotum about 1.3 times as long as wide, parallel-sided; dorsal rows each with four equidistant punctures, microsculpture identical to that on head; elytra rather coarsely, densely punctate, punctures separated by about a puncture diameter in transverse direction; interstices very shiny; abdominal tergites III–VI with two basal lines, elevated area between basal lines impunctate; remaining portion of tergites very finely, rather sparsely punctate, surface between punctures with exceedingly fine microstriae.

Aedeagus (Fig. 2) with median lobe similar to that of *B. fimetarius* GRAVENHORST, 1802, but more slender; paramere (Fig. 2c) also more slender, not wider than median lobe and with a simple V-shaped apical emargination.

Female unknown.

DIAGNOSIS: Externally, the species is very similar to *B. fimetarius*, but differs by somewhat smaller body size, and by the much smaller eyes (tempora less than 1.4 times as long as eyes in *B. fimetarius*).

BIONOMIES: The type specimen has been sifted from accumulated leaf litter in a wild apple plantation.

DISTRIBUTION: The species is at present known only from the type locality.

ETYMOLOGY: The species is named after its collector, Ing. Andreas Kapp, Staphylinidae specialist and important contributor to the knowledge of the Vorarlberg beetle fauna.

Zusammenfassung

Zwei neue Arten aus der Subtribus Philonthina werden aus Italien beschrieben: *Gabrius settei* (Provinz Verona) und *Bisnius kappi* (Sizilien).

References

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Koleopterologische Rundschau](#)

Jahr/Year: 2013

Band/Volume: [83_2013](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Schillhammer Harald

Artikel/Article: [Two new Philonthina from Italy \(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae\). 93-96](#)