

**Two new species of the genus *Sharpia* TOURNIER, 1873
from southwestern Asia**
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Smicronychini)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Sharpia* TOURNIER, 1873 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Curculioninae: Smicronychini) are described: *Sharpia persica* from Iran (Fars and Yazd provinces), very closely related to *S. stanovskyi* KOŠTÁL, 2023, and *S. pelikani* from Oman (Al-Batína and Dhofar governorates), closely related to *S. soluta* FAUST, 1885.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Smicronychini, *Sharpia*, taxonomy, Iran, Oman.

Introduction

So far, the only revision of the genus *Sharpia* TOURNIER, 1873 was published by ZUMPT (1936). Later, VOSS (1960), COLONNELLI (2009) and KOŠTÁL (2023) described three additional species. Currently, the genus *Sharpia* comprises nine Palearctic species, eight of which were listed in ALONSO-ZARAZAGA et al. (2023), and one of them was described in the same year by KOŠTÁL (2023). A few other species occur in arid areas of the Afrotropical Region (ALONSO-ZARAZAGA & LYAL 1999). Most species of the genus *Sharpia* are associated with plants of the family Convolvulaceae (see KOŠTÁL 2023).

In 2008 and 2013, I undertook two collecting trips to the Iranian provinces of Fars and Yazd, where I collected a species of *Sharpia*, very close to *S. stanovskyi* KOŠTÁL, 2023 from Oman, which turned out to be new to science. In 2019, three Czech entomologists, J. Pelikán, O. Konvička and L. Bobot collected phytophagous beetles in the Oman governorates of Al-Batína and Dhofar. When identifying the weevils of my colleagues, I found another new species of *Sharpia* collected by them independently. Both new species are described below.

Material and methods

The processing of samples, treatment and mounting of male genitalia, all measurements, their interpretation, devices used, photography, picture processing, and the terminology follow KOŠTÁL (2018). Spermathecae were imbedded in Solakryl BMX on a plastic card and photographed using the same devices as described in KOŠTÁL (2018).

Locality data of all specimens are quoted verbatim, individual labels are separated by a backslash (“\”).

Abbreviations:

El, Ew	maximum elytral length, maximum elytral width
Ewb, Pwb	distance between most lateral points of humeri, width of pronotum at base
l/w	length/width
Pl, Pw	pronotal length, pronotal width
Rl, Rw	rostrum length (in dorsal view), rostrum width (at base)
V1, V2	ventrite 1, ventrite 2
V3–4, V5	ventrites 3–4 combined, ventrite 5

JP	Collection Jan Pelikán, Hradec Králové, Czechia
LB	Collection Ludvík Bobot, Otrokovice, Czechia
MK	Collection Michael Košťál, Šoporňa, Slovakia
NMP	National Museum, Museum of Natural History, Prague, Czechia
NMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria
OK	Collection Ondřej Konvička, Zlín, Czechia

Sharpia persica sp.n.

Holotype ♂ (NMP): “IRAN c. YAZD Kuhhā Qohrud Mts. Michael Košťál leg. \ Yazd env. 1200 m N 31° 57.0' E 54° 21.9' 12.v.2013”. **Paratypes**: 5 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀ (MK), 1 ♂ (NMW [0012941]): same data; 3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀ (MK): “IRAN mer. FARS Kuhhā-ye Zāgros Mts. Michael Košťál leg. \ Pol-e-Fasā pr. Shiraz Mahārlu Lake 1600 m N 29° 27.2' E 52° 43.4' 4.v.2008”.

DIAGNOSIS: This species is recognizable by the relatively small oval (El/Ew 1.55–1.65), brown to reddish-brown body (RI/Pl ~ 1.4 in ♂♂, ~ 1.7 in ♀♀). The rostrum is regularly curved in both sexes, in apical half reddish to reddish-brown, never dark; pronotum slightly broader than wide, not strikingly narrower than elytral base (Ewb/Pwb < 1.5); elytral disc and sides with almost unicolorous, light brown to grayish scales, mostly with ill-defined light to whitish macula on elytral interstriae 2–3 shortly behind midlength, interstriae with two regular rows of imbricate scales, striae always visible as very thin dark lines; protarsal onychium not strikingly thin, only slightly shorter than tarsomeres 1–3 combined, and by the long body of penis.

DESCRIPTION: Holotype: Completely preserved, 2.41 mm long, with dissected genitalia in glycerine. Integument brown to reddish-brown, antennal scape, except brown apex, reddish-brown, legs except tarsi brown, tarsi, antennal funicle and club darkened; pronotum covered with irregularly angular scales, elytra with subquadrate large adpressed, moderately imbricate light brown scales and sparsely intermixed dark brown scales, and additional, relatively sparse, subrecumbent arch-like whitish scales being regularly distributed on basal part of rostrum, sides of pronotum, elytra, femora and tibiae, pronotal disc with only few elongate scales (Fig. 1a, c).

Head: Rostrum thin, long (RI/Rw 6.8, RI/Pl 1.4); in dorsal view (Fig. 1a) widest at base, in basal part very slightly to imperceptibly narrowed anteriorly, in apical part of equal width, at apex somewhat widened; basal part moderately densely covered with subelliptical, subrecumbent greyish scales and moderately sparse, elongate subrecumbent arch-like pale scales oriented mostly posteriad, apical part with sparse arch-like scales oriented anteriorly, apex bare; in lateral view (Fig. 1c) regularly distinctly curved, of equal width from base to apex; antennal scrobes in lateral view from antennal insertion to half of basal part of rostrum well visible, then directed ventrad reaching anterior margin of eyes. Head capsule globose, space between eyes as wide as rostrum at base, at lateral margins bearing tufts formed by few suberect suboval pale scales. Eyes very large, occupying more than 9/10 of visible surface of head capsule, not protruding from head outline, contiguous ventrally. Antennae except basal part of scape and club covered on scape with sparsely, on funicle with densely distributed, suberect arch-like elongate whitish scales, inserted at 0.6 of rostrum length, insertions in dorsal view not visible, scape as long as funicle, moderately widened in apical 1/4, segment 1 widened apically, 2.5 times as long as wide, segment 2 much thinner, 0.7 times as long as segment 1, segment 3 moderately longer than wide, segments 4–7 isodiametric, club spindle-shaped, 2.6 times as long as wide, brown tomentous with several erect pale sensilla.

Pronotum (Fig. 1a, c): Shorter than wide (Pl/Pw 0.94), widest at about its midlength, sides in dorsal view in basal half slightly, in apical half markedly rounded, with broad shallow constriction before anterior margin, posterior margin regularly moderately rounded, anterior margin at sides shallowly concavely emarginate; in lateral view flat on disc, in anterior part slightly concavely sloping anteriorly; in median part covered with very densely arranged, brown

subrotund adpressed scales being on sides paler, on sides, at anterior and posterior margins with additional elongate subrecumbent arch-like pale scales.

Scutellum (Fig. 1a): Indiscernible.

Elytra (Fig. 1a, c): Longer than wide (El/Ew 1.66), in anterior half subparallel, in posterior half first moderately rounded, at apex regularly rounded, humeri broadly but moderately prominent; widest at humeri; interstriae flat, about 4–5 times as wide as striae, of approximately equal width, when cleared of scales, finely shagreened, covered with large subrotund, imbricate, matt, adpressed brown and whitish scales completely concealing integument and being arranged in two regular rows on each interstria, interstria 2 at its midlength with ill-defined small macula formed by whitish scales, interstriae additionally with elongate (l/w 5–8), subrecumbent, arch-like whitish scales regularly distributed between both rows of adpressed scales; striae thin but well visible.

Venter: Completely covered with subrotund, partially imbricate, slightly shiny pale scales and moderately sparse, arch-like whitish hair-like scales; anterior margin of prosternum emarginate; mesoventral process small, oval, slightly protruding, fully covered with scales, separating mesocoxae; metaventrite, V1 and V2 moderately convex, V1 1.3 times as long as V2, V2 1.4 times as long as V3–4, V5 1.1 times as long as V3–4.

Legs (Fig. 1a): Femora unarmed, with preapical emargination, profemora more robust than meso- and metafemora; tibiae mucronate, inner margin of protibiae moderately sinuate, that of meso- and metatibiae straight, apical edge of tibiae with short to moderately long, light brown spines; onychium of protibiae thin, long, as long as 3/4 of tarsomeres 1–3 combined, tarsomere 1 almost twice as long as wide, tarsomere 2 slightly longer than wide, tarsomere 3 isodiametric, not bilobed, claws simple, relatively thin, connate in basal third; femora and tibiae moderately densely covered with adpressed pale scales being subrotund on femora and shortly elliptical on tibiae, and whitish arch-like scales of similar type as on venter, tarsi except onychia with suberect pale hair-like scales, onychia with long recumbent hairs.

Male genitalia (Fig. 3a–c): Body of penis long (l/w 6.2), with parallel sides, bluntly tapered at apex; in lateral view (Fig. 3b) almost evenly bent; tegmen with well-developed parameroid lobes being connate in their basal part, manubrium tegmeni distinctly longer than tegmen diameter.

Female (Fig. 1b, d): As in male except rostrum longer (Rl/Pl 1.7), antennal insertion in 0.5 of rostrum length, metaventrite, V1 and V2 slightly more convex. Spermatheca (Fig. 3d) with well-developed ramus, medium-sized corpus and long massive cornu.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: *Sharpia persica* is undoubtedly most closely related to *S. stanovskyi* described from southern Oman. It differs from *S. stanovskyi* in narrower elytral base compared to pronotal base (Ewb/Pwb < 1.5 vs. Ewb/Pwb > 1.5), considerably less shining scales on pronotal disc and elytra, visible striae on elytra, reddish-brown (vs. blackish brown) apical part of rostrum, somewhat thinner body of penis (l/w 6.2 vs. 5.8), and markedly stouter body of spermatheca. To some extent, it resembles *S. sabulicola* COLONNELLI, 2009 described from the United Arab Emirates. It differs from the latter in averagely larger body size (2.16–2.85 mm vs. 2.15 mm), somewhat wider pronotum (Pl/Pw 0.94 vs. 1.03), and especially in much longer and thinner body of penis (l/w 6.2 vs. 2.8).

VARIABILITY: Body length 2.16–2.85 mm. In relatively many specimens the ill-defined whitish macula on elytral interstria 2 reaches interstria 3.

DISTRIBUTION: Iran (Fars, Yazd).

BIONOMICS: The type series was collected by sweeping perennial vegetation in primeval (Fars) (Fig. 5) and ruderal (Yazd) xerothermophilous habitats.

ETYMOLOGY: The name refers to Ancient Iran, historically known as Persia, where the type series was collected.

***Sharpia pelikani* sp.n.**

Holotype ♂ (NMP): “N Oman, Al Batinah N Gov., near Ar Rajmi 23.-24.3.2019 lgt. Jan Pelikán \ 24° 38' 2.416" N 374m 56° 17' 54.229" E wadi, rock-stream beating vegetation”. **Paratypes:** 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (MK), 1 ♀ (JP): same data; 1 ♂ (NMW [0012942]), 4 ♀♀ (JP): “N Oman, Al Batinah N. Gov., near Ar Rajmi 2.-3.4.2018 lgt. Jan Pelikán \ 24° 38' 2.416" N 374m 56° 17' 54.299" E wadi rocks-stream, beating vegetation”; 1 ♂ (MK): “N Oman, Al Batinah N Gov., Wadi al Huyul (near Al Qufays) 25.3. lgt. Jan Pelikán 2019 \ 23° 56' 54.591" N wadi 56° 27' 50.153" E 521m beating Nerium mascatense”; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀ (JP): “S Oman, Dhofar Gov. cca [= ca.] 17 km NE of Rayzut N of Quaftoot 24.9. lgt. Jan Pelikán 2018 \ 17° 4' 30.545" N 909m 53° 53' 48.645" E forest, beating vegetation”; 1 ♂ (JP): “S Oman, Dhofar Gov. 17 Km NE of Rayzut N of Quaftoot 14.9. lgt. Jan Pelikán 2022 \ 17° 4' 30.545" N 53° 53' 48.645" E forest, beating Convolvulaceae”; 1 ♂ (OK): “Oman, Al-Batinah N. Gov. Wadi Rajma, near Rajmi 24° 38' 3" N 56° 17' 52" E 14.-15.III.2023 lgt. Ondřej Konvička”; 1 ♂, 1 ♀ (LB): “Oman, Al-Batina N. Gov. Wadi Rajma, near Rajmi 24° 38' 3" N 56° 17' 52" E 14.III.2023, at light [the latter two words are lacking on the label of the female specimen] L. Bobot leg. \ coll. L. Bobot [printed blue label]”.

DIAGNOSIS: This species is easily recognizable by its relatively large and oval, dark brown, relatively short body (El/Ew 1.59–1.69), moderately curved, in apical part apparently narrowed rostrum without striking difference in length and shape between sexes, pronotum slightly broader than wide, at base narrower than elytral base (Ewb/Pwb < 1.5), elytral interstriae except creamy interstria 4 with alternating dark brown and creamy to light brown sections, each interstria with two to three poorly regular rows of imbricate scales, visible thin striae, short, relatively thick protarsal onychium of 2/3 length of tarsomeres 1–3 combined, and by broad apex of the body of penis being very slightly tipped.

DESCRIPTION: Holotype: Completely preserved, 3.47 mm long with dissected genitalia in glycerine. Integument dark brown to blackish-brown, antennal scape in entire length reddish-brown, funicle and club brown; pronotum densely covered with subrotund to irregularly angular, partially imbricate, adpressed, moderately shiny scales being on disc silvery to whitish, on sides yellowish, elytra with subrotund to irregularly angular, adpressed, imbricate whitish, creamy and brown scales, both pronotum and elytra, as well as femora and tibiae with additional, sparse, recumbent to subrecumbent, arch-like whitish scales (Fig. 2a, c).

Head: Rostrum moderately thin, moderately long (Rl/Rw 5.1, Rl/Pl 1.3); in dorsal view (Fig. 2a) widest at base, in basal part of almost equal width, then clearly narrowed from antennal insertion to apex; basal part densely covered with subelliptical, recumbent to subrecumbent greyish scales and sparse, elongate, suberect arch-like pale scales oriented posteriad, apical part with moderately sparse arch-like hair-like scales oriented antieriad, apex with few suberect hairs; in lateral view (Fig. 2c) regularly moderately curved, of equal width from base to antennal insertion, then tapered to apex; antennal scrobes as in *S. persica*. Head capsule globose, space between eyes as wide as rostrum at base bearing at lateral margins only several erect suboval pale scales. Eyes as in *S. persica*. Antennal vestiture as in *S. persica*, antennal insertion in 0.6 of rostrum length, insertion in dorsal view not visible, scape very slightly shorter than funicle, slightly widened at apex, segment 1 only very slightly widened apicad, almost cylindrical, 1.8 times as long as wide, segment 2 thinner, 0.8 times as long as segment 1, segment 3 slightly longer than wide, segments 4–7 isodiametric, club spindle-shaped, 2.8 times as long as wide, brown tomentous with few erect pale sensilla.

Pronotum (Fig. 2a, c): Almost isodiametric (Pl/Pw 1.02), widest shortly behind its midlength, sides in dorsal view in basal half very slightly, in apical half markedly rounded, with broad, relatively deep constriction before anterior margin, posterior margin with posteriad convergent sides, anterior margin at sides very slightly to almost imperceptibly concave; in lateral view flat

on disc, in anterior part moderately sloping anteriorly; in median part covered with very densely arranged, adpressed, slightly shiny, silvery to greyish scales, in mediobasal part with darker scales forming two parallel, ill-defined maculae, on sides with paler scales, entire surface with additional, elongate, recumbent to subrecumbent arch-like pale scales.

Scutellum (Fig. 2a): Indiscernible.

Elytra (Fig. 2a, c): Longer than wide (El/Ew 1.69), in anterior half slightly, in posterior half strongly, almost regularly, at apex broadly rounded, humeri round, moderately prominent; widest at 1/3 of length; interstriae flat, about four times as wide as striae, except interstria 4 of approximately equal width, interstriae, when cleared of scales, finely rugulose, covered with large subrotund, strongly imbricate, whitish, light brown and dark brown scales arranged in two irregular rows on each interstria except wider interstria 4 covered exclusively with whitish to yellowish scales arranged in three strongly irregular rows of scales, additionally with elongate (l/w 5–8), recumbent to subrecumbent, arch-like whitish scales moderately sparsely distributed in rows in middle of interstriae; striae thin but well visible.

Venter: Completely covered with small, subrotund, adpressed creamy scales completely concealing integument; anterior margin of prosternum deeply, relatively sharply emarginate; mesoventral process small, very slightly protruding, completely covered with scales, separating mesocoxae; metaventricle, V1 and V2 very slightly convex, V1 1.5 times as long as V2, V2 1.3 times as long as V3–4, V5 0.7 times as long as V3–4.

Legs (Fig. 2a): Femora unarmed, at most with one or two erect dark seta-like scales near shallow preapical emargination; tibiae mucronate, protibial inner margin very slightly sinuate, meso- and metatibial inner margin straight, apical edge of tibiae with relatively large black spines forming false corbels; onychium of protibiae moderately thin, 0.7 times as long as tarsomeres 1–3 combined, tarsomere 1 1.5 times as long as wide, tarsomere 2 moderately longer than wide, tarsomere 3 isodiametric, apparently but not strongly bilobed, claws simple, moderately thin, connate in basal 1/4; femora and tibiae very densely covered with subrotund, recumbent, strongly imbricate, unicolorous greyish and arch-like, elongate whitish scales similar to those on elytra, tarsi except onychia covered with relatively short, suberect pale hair-like scales, onychia with recumbent greyish hairs.

Male genitalia (Fig. 4a–c): Body of penis long (l/w 5.6), with parallel sides, abruptly tapered shortly before very indistinctly tipped apex; in lateral view (Fig. 4b) evenly and moderately bent; tegmen with well-developed parameroid lobes being connate in their basal part, manubrium tegmeni strikingly longer than tegmen diameter.

Female (Fig. 2b, d): As in male, rostrum only moderately longer (Rl/Pl 1.4) with antennal insertion in about 0.5 of rostrum length, metaventricle, V1 and V2 moderately more convex. Spermatheca (Fig. 4d) simple, corner-like with coalescent cornu, body and ramus.

COMPARATIVE NOTES: *Sharpia pelikani* is most closely related to *S. soluta* FAUST, 1885 from Romania, Cyprus, Transcaucasia and Central Asia. It differs from this species in the longer antennal club (l/w 2.8 vs. 1.8), narrower pronotum (Pl/Pw 1.02 vs. 0.85), less massive and longer body of penis (l/w 5.6 vs. 3.3), and especially in the narrowed apical part of the rostrum, which is, contrariwise, enlarged from the antennal insertion to the apex in *S. soluta*.

VARIABILITY: Body length: 2.97–3.83 mm. The type series shows a remarkable variability in the pattern of the vestiture, varying from specimens with numerous dark brown spots or maculae to almost entirely pale specimens without dark spots. The other characters are very constant.

DISTRIBUTION: Oman (Al-Batína, Dhofar).

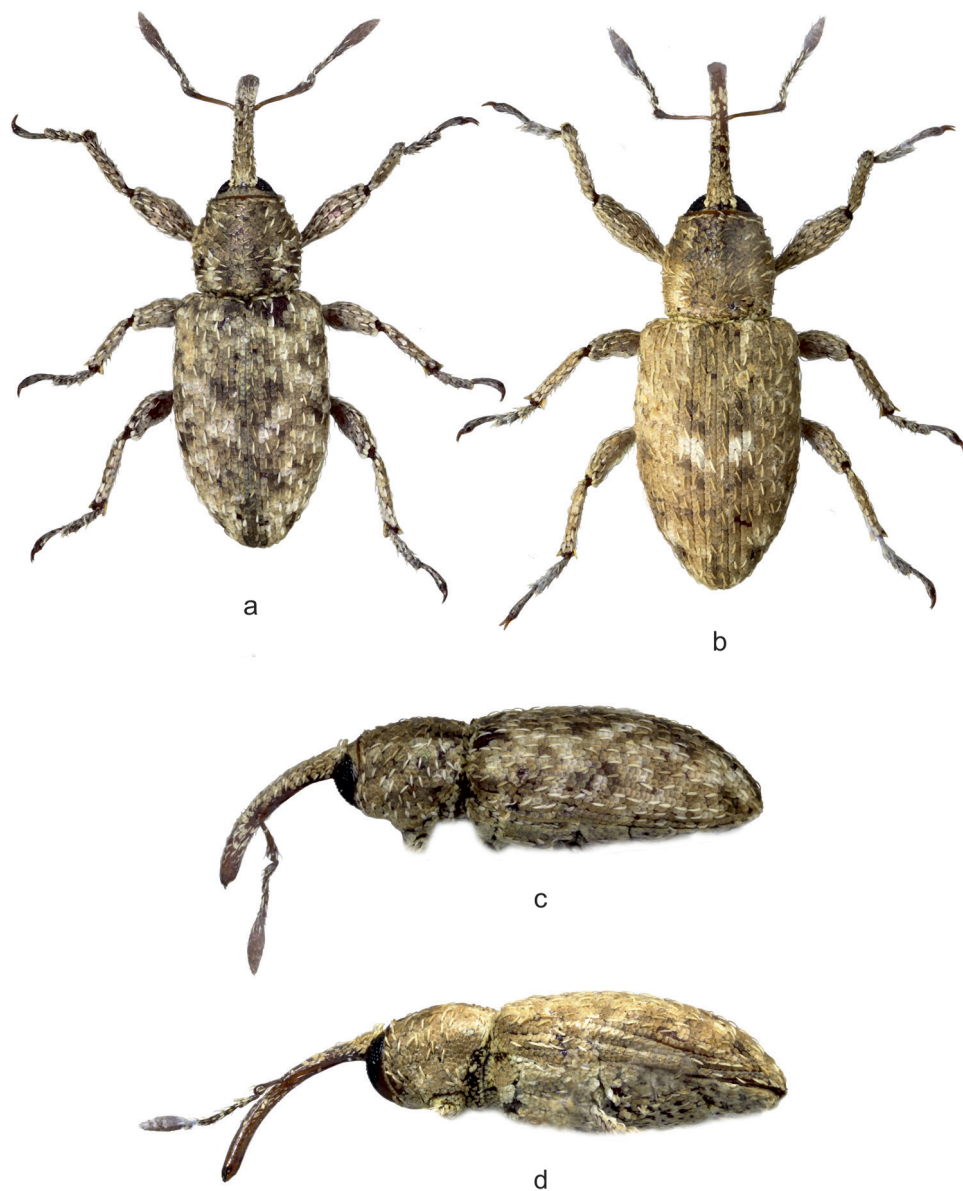


Fig. 1: *Sharpia persica*, a) habitus (paratype male), dorsal view, b) same, (paratype female), c) habitus (paratype male), lateral view, d) same, (paratype female). Not to scale.

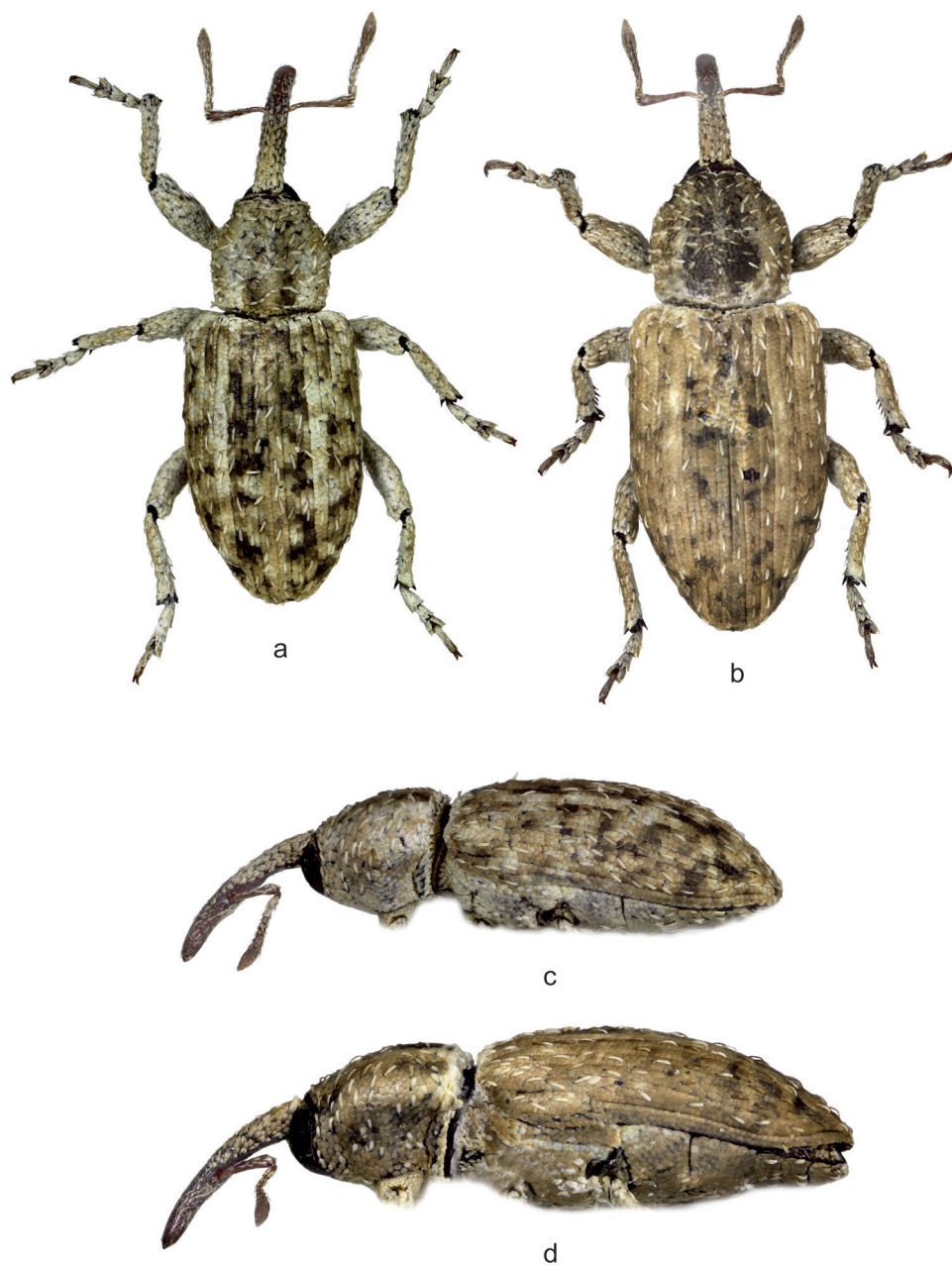


Fig. 2: *Sharpia pelikani*, a) habitus (holotype), dorsal view, b) same, (paratype female), c) habitus (holotype), lateral view, d) same, (paratype female). Not to scale.

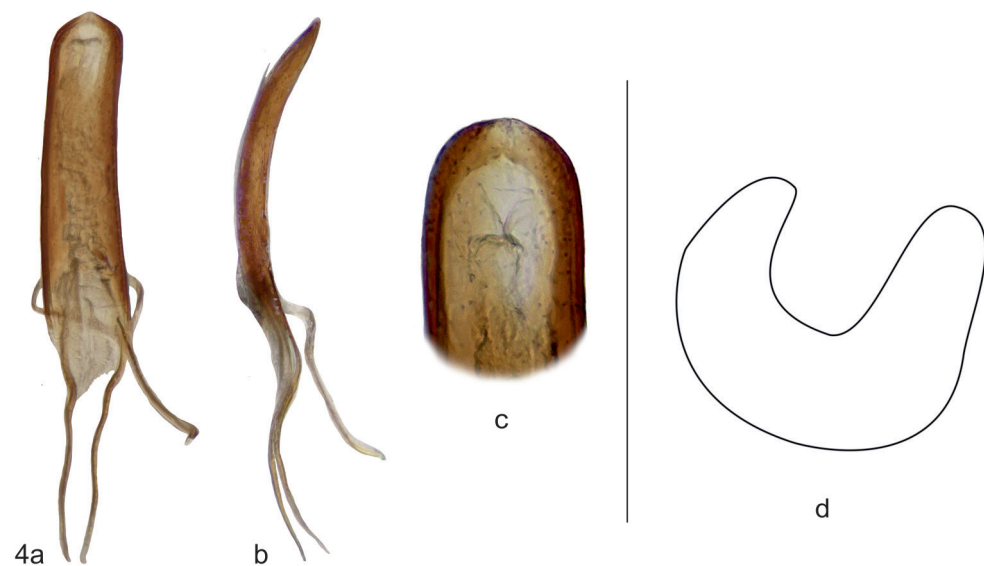
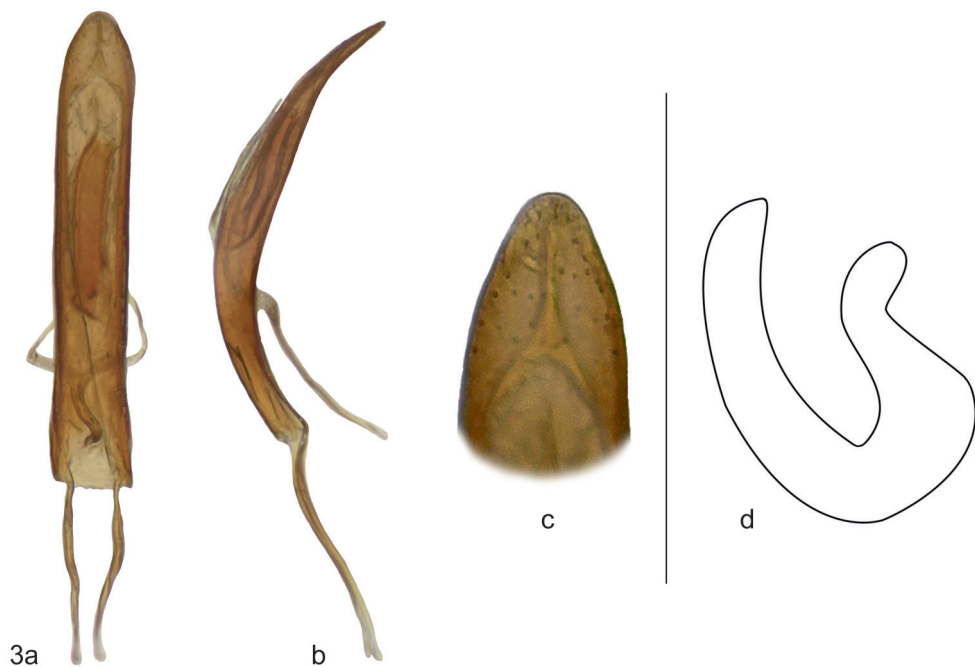


Fig. 3: *Sharpia persica*, a) penis (paratype), ventral view, b) same, lateral view, c) apex of penis, dorsal view, d) spermatheca. Scale bars: 0.90 mm (a–b), 0.45 mm (c), 0.30 mm (d).

Fig. 4: *Sharpia pelikani*, a) penis (holotype), ventral view, b) same, lateral view, c) apex of penis, dorsal view, d) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1.00 mm (4a–b), 0.50 mm (c), 0.35 mm (d).



Fig. 5: Habitat of *Sharpia persica*, Iran, Fars, beach of Lake Maharlu, 1,600 m a.s.l. (photograph by M. Košťál).

Fig. 6: Habitat of *Sharpia pelikani*, Oman, Al-Batína, Wadi Rajma, 370 m a.s.l. (photograph by J. Pelikán).



Fig. 7: Locality of *Sharpia pelikani* with flowering *Convolvulus* sp., Oman, Al-Batína, Wadi Rajma, 370 m a.s.l. (photograph by O. Konvička).

BIONOMICS: Most of the type specimens were collected by beating vegetation in rocky dry habitats (Fig. 6). However, one specimen from Dhofar was collected from “Convolvulaceae”, and a photograph from the collecting site of another specimen shows a flowering *Convolvulus* sp. (Fig. 7). Therefore, and in accordance with FRIEDMAN (2017) and HALPERIN & FREMUTH (2003), the host plant of *S. pelikani* is almost certainly a species of *Convolvulus* as it is the case in several other *Sharpia* species.

ETYMOLOGY: I dedicate the species to one of its collectors, Jan Pelikán, a diligent collector of phytophagous beetles.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks are due to the three Czech colleagues listed above for making the specimens of *Sharpia pelikani* accessible to me. Dr. M.A. Jäch (NMW) helped with the editing of the manuscript.

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Band/Volume: [95_2025](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Kostal Michael

Artikel/Article: [Two new species of the genus Sharpia TOURNIER, 1873 from southwestern Asia \(Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Smicronychini\) 163-173](#)