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The third species of *Actocharis* SHARP (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

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A b s t r a c t : *Actocharis calabrica* sp.n., the third species of the genus, is described from the coast of Calabria (Italy), illustrated, and distinguished from its congeners.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Actocharis*, West Palaearctic region, Europe, Italy, taxonomy, new species, intertidal habitat.

Introduction

For more than a century after its description, the West Palaearctic genus *Actocharis* SHARP 1870 included only one species, the type species *A. readingii* SHARP 1870 from Western Europe and the Western Mediterranean, until a second species, *A. cassandrensis* ASSING 1992, was discovered on Kassandra peninsula, Greece (ASSING 1992), but never recorded since. *Actocharis* species are collected rather rarely, not only because of their minute body size, but also because of their cryptic intertidal habitat. They occur on sand beaches, where they have been found either under stones (usually accidental records) or by washing sand (type series of *A. cassandrensis*).

Staphylinid material recently collected in the course of a study of intertidal beetles of Malta, Sicily, and Calabria by Alan Deidun, University of Malta, and sent to me for identification, contained an *Actocharis* male from Calabria. An examination of its genitalia revealed that it is conspecific with neither of the two previously known species.

***Actocharis calabrica* sp.n. (Figs 1-4)**

H o l o t y p e ♂: ITALIA - Calabria [44], Gioia Tauro, sandy beach, 10.X.2003, leg. A Deidun / Holotypus ♂ *Actocharis calabrica* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2004 (author's collection).

D e s c r i p t i o n : Measurements of holotype (in mm): head width: 0.26; width of pronotum: 0.26; length of pronotum: 0.23; length of elytra at suture: 0.15; total length from anterior margin of labrum to posterior margin of tergite VII: 1.51.

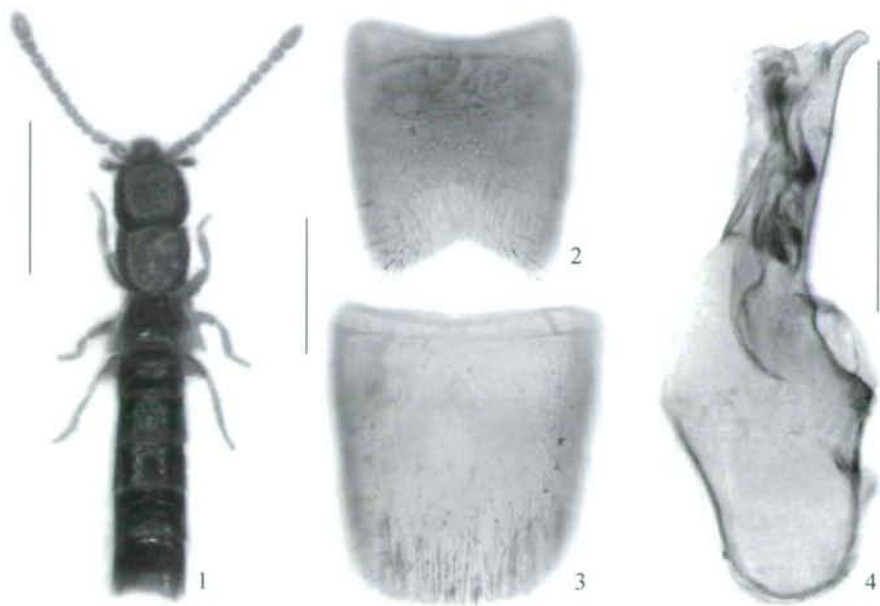
Facies as in Fig. 1. Size, proportions, coloration, puncturation, microsculpture, and other external characters as in *A. readingii* and *A. cassandrensis*. Distinguished only by the sexual characters:

♂: posterior excavation of tergite VIII of broadly triangular shape (Fig. 2); sternite VII only weakly tapering posteriad (Fig. 3); median lobe of aedeagus in lateral aspect with almost straight ventral process (Fig. 4).

Comparative notes: The new species is readily distinguished from both *A. readingii* and *A. cassandrensis* especially by the straight ventral process (lateral view) of the median lobe of the aedeagus. In the congeners, the ventral process is slightly (*A. cassandrensis*) or strongly bent (*A. readingii*); for illustration see figures 3 and 4 in ASSING (1992).

Etymology: The name (adjective) is derived from the Italian province Calabria, where the type locality is situated.

Bionomics: According to Deidun (in litt.), the holotype was collected on bare sand.



Figs 1-4: *Actocharis calabrica* sp.n. (holotype): 1 – facies; 2 – ♂ tergite VIII; 3 – ♂ sternite VIII; 4 – median lobe of aedeagus. Scale bars: 1: 0.5 mm; 2-4: 0.1 mm.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Alan Deidun, University of Malta, for the permission to retain the holotype.

Zusammenfassung

Actocharis calabrica sp.n., die dritte Art der Gattung, wird aus Calabrien (Süditalien) beschrieben und von den beiden bekannten Arten der Gattung unterschieden. Wesentliche Differentialmerkmale werden abgebildet.

References

- ASSING V. (1992): A new species of the genus *Actocharis* FAUVEL 1869 from Greece: *Actocharis cassandrensis* n.sp. (Col.: Staphylinidae). — Entomol. Blätter 88: 43-48.
- SHARP D. (1870): Characters of a new genus and descriptions of new species of Aleocharidae from Britain. — Entomol. Monthly Mag. 6: 279-282.

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