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Description of *Lesteva martinae* nov.sp. from Central Italy (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Omaliinae)

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A b s t r a c t : *Lesteva martinae* nov.sp. from Abruzzo (Central Italy) is described. It is closely related to *L. benicki* LOHSE 1958 (Alps) and *L. aterrima* LOHSE 1967 (Spain: Asturias).

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Omaliinae, *Lesteva*, new species, Italy.

Introduction

Two specimens of a new *Lesteva*, closely related to *L. benicki* LOHSE 1958, were collected by my daughter Martina in Abruzzo (Central Italy) in 1998, but the material was for a description. However, in subsequent years, Giuseppe Osella (University of L'Aquila) and his collaborators collected 21 additional specimens, thus making a description possible. The presence of a new species emphasizes the importance of the study and of the conservation of hygropetric habitats, especially in the Mediterranean mountain environments.

Material and methods

Two specimens were sampled in the course of an entomological excursion in the Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo (1998), the remaining 21 during research on hygropetric musk arthropods of the mountains of Abruzzo, coordinated by Giuseppe Osella in the years 2000-2004.

The type depositories are abbreviated as follow

MCSNV Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Verona

CZA private collection Zanetti (Verona)

Description

***Lesteva martinae* nov.sp. (Fig. 5)**

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂, 10 paratypes ♂♂, 4 paratypes ♀♀ Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo (Italy, Abruzzo, province of L'Aquila) La Camosciara N side 1200m 24.IX.2000 wet musk on stones along stream leg. Osella (holotype and 9 paratypes MCSNV, 5 paratypes CZA); 1 paratype

♂ and 1 paratype ♀ Parco Nazionale d'Abruzzo (AQ) La Camosciara rif. Belvedere della Liscia 1500m 12.VII.1998 musk near waterfall leg. M. Zanetti (CZA); 4 paratypes ♂♂, 2 paratypes ♀♀ Isola del Gran Sasso (Italy, Abruzzo, province of Teramo) Pretara Cascata del Ruzzo 22.II.2004 musk on mountainside leg. Di Egidio (4 paratypes MCSNV, 2 paratypes CZA).

Measurements of holotype (mm): Length of head (clypeus/neck): 0.51; width of head: 0.74; length of pronotum: 0.74; width of pronotum: 0.81; length of antenna: 1.96; length of elytra (shoulder/apex): 1.40; width of elytra: 1.4; length from clypeus to apex of elytra: 2.7; total length (with extended abdomen): 3.9.

Etymology: The new species is dedicated to my daughter Martina, who collected the first two specimens (La Camosciara, 12.VII.1998).

Description: Head, pronotum, elytra and abdomen brown, elytra feebly reddish along the suture in the discal area, abdomen with two or sometimes three apical segments more or less distinctly yellowish brown, legs variable, from entirely yellowish brown to brown with the proximal parts of femora and tarsi yellowish brown. Antennae yellowish brown with the 3rd-9th segments often darkened.

Head with rather prominent eyes, antecellar depressions deep, surface with scarce microsculpture, much more marked on the neck, and fine, dense and regular puncturation, with long and weakly decumbent pubescence. Antennae rather long, with 1st and 11th segment subequal in length, and all the other, about 0.75 times as long as the 1st, feebly enlarged from the 2nd, which is about twice as long as wide, to the 10th, which is less than twice as long as wide.

Pronotum cordate, widest closely behind the anterior angles, with evident microsculpture and fine and very dense puncturation, rendering the surface rather opaque. Surface with two impressions on either side of the median line and one near the base, these impressions more or less pronounced. Pubescence long and decumbent. Elytra strongly enlarged caudally, flat, as long as wide on average; puncturation fine and dense, somewhat coarser and more confluent than that of pronotum, pubescence long and decumbent. Metathoracic wings developed. Legs of moderate length, metatarsus slightly less than half as long as metatibia. 1st segment as long as 2nd and 3rd together.

Abdomen with fine puncturation and dense decumbent pubescence.

Aedeagus: Figs 1-2.

Females of similar morphology as males.

Body length 3.7-4.6 mm.

Comparative notes: *Lesteva martinae* nov.sp. is closely related to *L. benicki* LOHSE 1858 from the Alps and *L. aterrima* LOHSE 1967 from Spain (Asturias). No exoskeletal character distinguish it from the former, but the aedeagus is differently shaped in lateral view, the concavity between the basal bulb and the median lobe is less deep and the median lobe is shorter (Figs 1-3). It is distinguished from *L. aterrima* by the lighter apical segments of the abdomen (entirely dark in *atterrima*) and by the shape of the apex of the median lobe, which is obliquely truncated in *martinae* and progressively narrowed to an acute tip in *L. aterrima* (fig. 4). *L. pubescens* MANNERHEIM, 1830 is the most similar species also present in central Italy. It shares with *L. martinae* the presence of pubescence on the median lobe, which, however, is of completely different shape, wide and not hooked in lateral view (ZANETTI 1987: 92). The apex of the abdomen is darker and the eyes are less prominent on the average, but specimens may not always be distinguishable from *martinae* without the examination of the aedeagus.

D i s t r i b u t i o n : The new species is currently known only from the mountains of Abruzzo (Central Italy), in the areas of Gran Sasso d'Italia and Abruzzo National Park. It was reported as *Lesteva* n.sp. by ZANETTI (2005). The known localities are separated by a distance of about 60 km. *Lesteva benicki*, the closest species, is spread in the Alps (distribution map in ZANETTI l.c.).

B i o n o m i c s : All the specimens of the new species were collected in very wet musk near waterfalls and streams, at altitudes between 750 and 1500 m. In the site "La Camosciara" (Abruzzo national Park) it was associated with *L. corsica* PERRIS 1869, *L. luctuosa* FAUVEL 1871 and *L. monticola* KIESENWETTER 1847, in the site Pretara (Gran Sasso d'Italia) with *L. lepontia* BAUDI 1879. *L. omissa* MULSANT & REY 1880 and *L. monticola* KIESENWETTER 1847.

P h e n o l o g y : The specimens were collected in February, July and September.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to my daughter Martina who has assisted me with passion and patience in collecting Staphylinidae since she was a child (she collected the new species at the age of thirteen), to Giuseppe Osella (University of l'Aquila) who entrusted me with his important material of riparian Staphylinidae from Abruzzo for study, to Luca Toledano (Verona) for the picture of the type of *Lesteva martinae*, and to Volker Assing (Hannover) for the criticism and stylistic improvement of the manuscript.

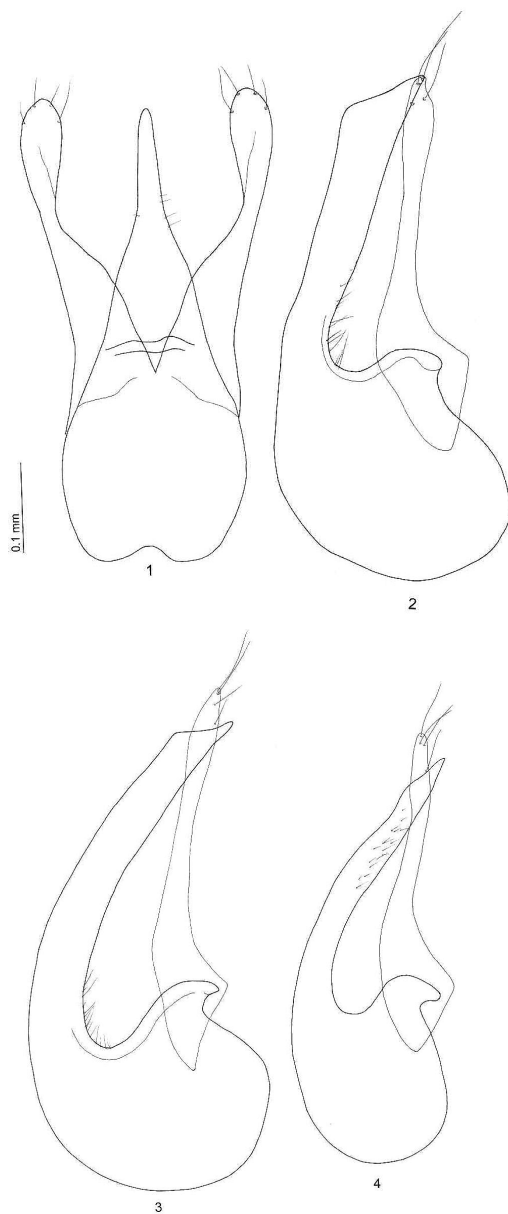
Acknowledgements

Lesteva martinae nov.sp. aus den zentralitalienischen Abruzzen wird beschrieben. Die Art ist nahe verwandt mit *L. benicki* LOHSE 1958 (Alpen) und *L. aterrima* LOHSE 1967 (Nordwestspanische Provinz Asturien).

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Figs 1-4: Aedeagi of *Lesteva martinae* nov. sp. in dorsal (1) and in lateral view (2) 1, of *L. benicki* LOHSE (3) and *L. aterrima* LOHSE (4) in lateral view.

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Figs 5: *Lesteva martinae* nov. sp., holotype.

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