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On the identity of some *Acanthoglossa* and *Hypomedon* species, primarily from the Mediterranean region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

V. ASSING

A b s t r a c t : Based on a study of types and additional material, the following synonymies are established: *Medonina* CASEY 1905 = *Acanthoglossina* COIFFAIT 1982, nov.syn.; *Acanthoglossa* KRAATZ 1859 = *Cephisella* FAGEL 1961, nov.syn., = *Cephisus* FAUVEL 1873, nov.syn.; *Acanthoglossa orientis* (FAUVEL 1873), nov.comb. = *A. abeillei* BERNHAUER 1902, nov.syn.; *A. punica* FAUVEL 1901 = *A. deserticola* JARRIGE 1958, nov.syn. A lectotype is designated for *Cephisus orientis* FAUVEL. External characters, mouthparts, and the male sexual characters of *A. orientis* and *A. hirta* KRAATZ 1859, the genotypes of *Cephisella* and *Acanthoglossa*, respectively, as well as of *A. punica*, *A. crassa* COIFFAIT 1979, and *Hypomedon niloticus* (KOCH 1934), nov.comb. are figured. The generic affiliations of the Mediterranean species currently attributed to *Acanthoglossa* and *Hypomedon* are briefly discussed. The distributions of *Acanthoglossa orientis*, *A. punica*, *A. crassa*, and *Hypomedon niloticus* are mapped.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, Medonina, Acanthoglossina, *Acanthoglossa*, *Cephisella*, *Hypomedon* Palaearctic region, Mediterranean, taxonomy, new synonymies, new combinations.

Introduction

FAUVEL (1873) established the genus *Cephisus* to include only the type species *C. orientis*, which he described in the same work from three localities in the Middle East. A second Palaearctic *Cephisus* species was described from Israel by BERNHAUER (1902). FAGEL (1961) discovered that *Cephisus* represented a junior homonym and replaced the name with the nomen novum *Cephisella*. Both *C. orientis* and *C. abeillei* were attributed to *Acanthoglossa* KRAATZ 1859 by COIFFAIT (1984). Remarkably, however, he indicates neither *Cephisus* nor *Cephisella* as junior synonyms of that genus. According to SMETANA (2004), *Cephisella* is currently represented in the Western Palaearctic region by two species, *C. orientis* and the widespread *C. rufa* (KRAATZ 1859). The latter was recently moved to *Acanthoglossa* (ASSING 2008b). One species, *C. nilotica* (KOCH 1934), was transferred from *Sunius* STEPHENS 1829 by ASSING (2008a). *Cephisus abeillei* is currently attributed to *Acanthoglossa* (COIFFAIT 1984; SMETANA 2004). *Acanthoglossa* and *Cephisella* – and consequenly *A. abeillei* and *C. orientis* – are today assigned to two different subtribes, the Acanthoglossina COIFFAIT 1982 and the Medon-

ina CASEY 1905 (SMETANA 2004). Another observation that adds to the systematic confusion is that, based on the illustrations of the aedeagus in JARRIGE (1958) and COIFFAIT (1984), *Acanthoglossa deserticola* JARRIGE 1958 and *A. longipennis* (J. SAHLBERG 1908), the latter species originally described in *Cephisus* and now in *Acanthoglossa*, are evidently close relatives of *C. orientis*.

Attempts at identifying recently collected material from Israel and deciding if it should be referred to either *C. orientis* or *A. abeillei* proved unsuccessful, not only because the distinguishing characters indicated in the literature seemed contradictory, but also because the male sexual characters of *A. abeillei* were unknown. Also, they cast some doubt on the generic and subtribal affiliations of both taxa, and the possibility that they were in fact conspecific could not be ruled out. In order to clarify the taxonomic status of both names, a study of the respective types was indispensable.

Material, methods, and measurements

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the following public institutions and private collections:

FMNH ..... Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago (A. F. Newton; via L. H. Herman)

IRSNB ..... Institut royal des Sciences naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles (Y. Gérard)

MHNG ..... Muséum d'histoire naturelle Genève (G. Cuccodoro)

MNHNP ..... Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (A. Taghavian)

NHMB ..... Naturhistorisches Museum Basel (M. Brancucci, I. Zürcher-Pfander)

SDEI ..... Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (L. Behne, L. Zerche)

TAU ..... National Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University (A. Freidberg, via B. Feldmann)

cAss..... author´s private collection

cFel ..... private collection Benedikt Feldmann, Münster

cSch..... private collection Michael Schülke, Berlin

The morphological studies were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra.

The maps were generated using the online generic mapping tool (GMT) of the Geomar website at www.aquarius.ifm-geomar.de/omc.

Results

***Acanthoglossa orientis* (FAUVEL 1873), nov.comb.** (Figs 1-7, Map 1)

Cephisus orientis FAUVEL 1873: 300.
Cephisus abeillei BERNHAUER 1902: 245 f.; **nov.syn.**
Cephisella orientis: FAGEL (1961); SMETANA (2004).
Acanthoglossa orientis: COIFFAIT (1984).
Acanthoglossa abeillei: COIFFAIT (1984); SMETANA (2004).

Type material examined: *C. orientis*: Lectotype ♂, present designation: "Beyrouth / orientis Fauv. / Ex-Typis / Coll. R. I. Sc. N. B. / Lectotypus ♂ *Cephisus orientis* Fauvel, desig. V. Assing 2009 / Cephisella orientis (Fauvel), det. V. Assing 2009" (IRSNB). Paralectotypes: 1♂: "Beyrouth, St. Jean d'Acre, avec fourmis / Bethléem / Ex-Typis / Coll. R. I. Sc. N. B." (IRSNB); 1♀ [damaged, apparently in the process of dissecting the mouthparts prior to the present study]: "Beyrouth / orientis Fauv. / Ex-Typis / Coll. R. I. Sc. N. B." (IRSNB).
C. abeillei: Holotypus ♂: "Jaffa / Jaffa / Cephisus abeillei inédit. / Abeillei Brnh. Type, Syrien, von Abeille / Chicago NHMus., M.Bernhauer Collection / Cephisella orientis (Fauvel), det. V. Assing 2009" (FMNH).

Additional material examined: Israel: 1 ex., Golan, Mahjar [32°54'N, 35°39'E], 200 m, 27.IV.1982, leg. Besuchet & Löbl (MHNG); 2 exs., Golan, Mt. Hermon, 1600 m, 23.IV.1982, leg. Besuchet & Löbl (MHNG); 1 ex. [det. Feldmann], Mt. Hermon, 1600 m, 12.VI.2007, leg. Chikatunov (TAU); 1 ex., Golan, Kazabia, 15.IV.1982, leg. Besuchet & Löbl (cAss); 4 exs., 22 km E Haifa, Bir el-Maksur, 32°47'N, 35°14'E, 10.II.2006, leg. Aßmann (cFel); 2 exs., Upper Galilee, Ziv'on, 33°01'N, 35°25'E, 29.IV.2006, leg. Aßmann (cFel, cAss); 1 ex., same data, but 750 m, stone pasture, dolomite, 28.-29.IV.2006, leg. Wrase (cSch); 1 ex., ca. 70 km SW Tel Aviv, Bitronot Be'eri Reserve, 31°26'N, 34°29'E, 15.II.2005, leg. Aßmann (cFel).

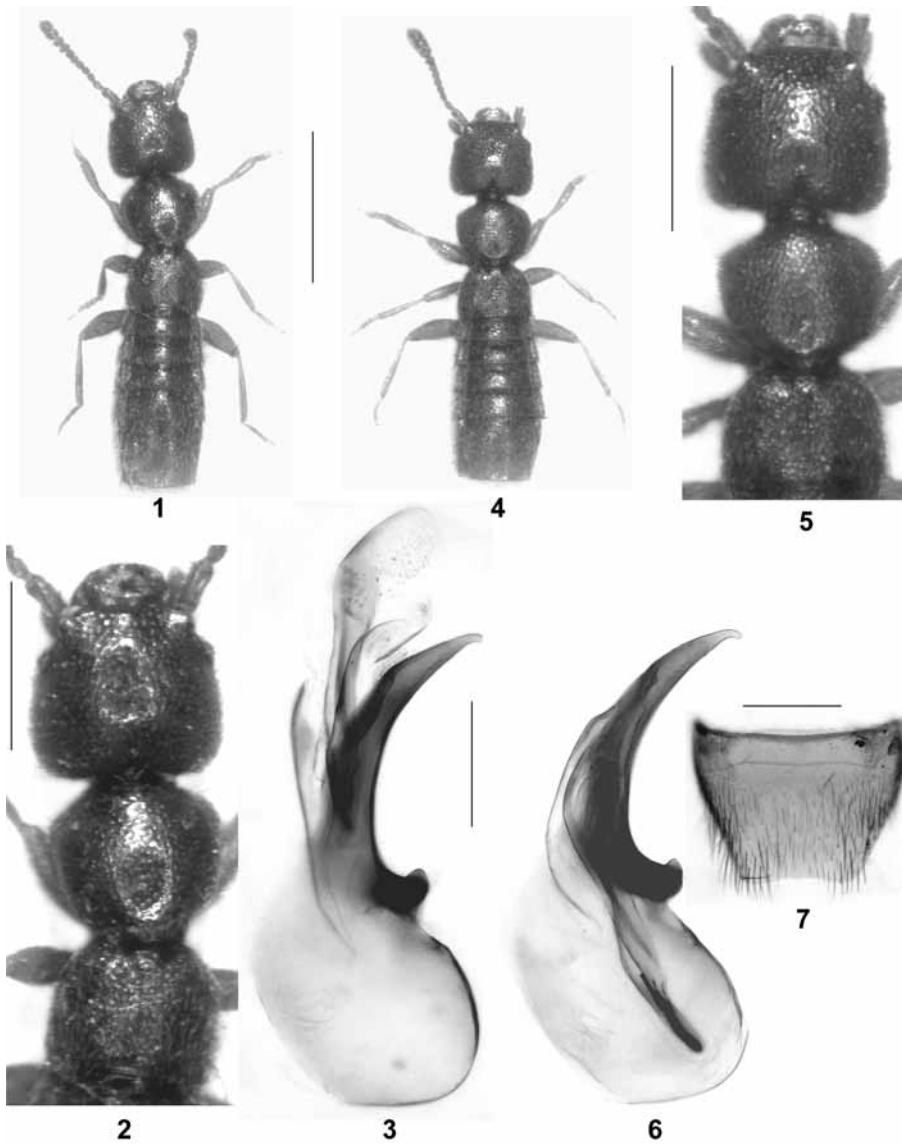
Comments: The original description of *Cephisus orientis* is based on an unspecified number of syntypes from "Beyrouth, St-Jean-d'Acre, Bethléem" (FAUVEL 1873). Three syntypes, two males and a severely damaged female, were located in the Fauvel collection at the IRSNB. The male with an unambiguous locality label is designated as the lectotype. The female was probably dissected by COIFFAIT (1984), who figured the mouthparts.

BERNHAUER (1902) explicitly based the original description of *Acanthoglossa abeillei* on a single specimen from "Jaffa (Syrien)", today Haifa in Israel, stating that the species was distinguished from *C. orientis* by the denser and finer punctation, and consequently less glossy appearance of the forebody.

According to COIFFAIT (1984), who attributed both species to *Acanthoglossa*, *A. abeillei* is additionally separated from *C. orientis* by smaller body size (2.5 mm; *C. orientis*: 2.5-3 mm), as well as by the shape of the head (not transverse and longer than the pronotum; *C. orientis*: distinctly transverse, approximately as long as pronotum). Since a male of *A. abeillei* was unknown to him, he figured only the aedeagus of *C. orientis*.

An examination of the type material of both names revealed that they in fact refer to the same species. The aedeagus and the male secondary sexual characters are identical (Figs 3, 6). The holotype of *A. abeillei* is indeed slightly smaller and has a more densely punctate forebody, but a comparison with the additional material listed above showed that body size, the punctation of the forebody, as well as the shapes of the head and pronotum are evidently subject to considerable intraspecific variation. For a discussion of the systematic status of the genus see the comments in the section on *Acanthoglossa hirta*.

R e d e s c r i p t i o n : 2.5-3.0 mm. Habitus as in Figs 1, 4. Coloration: body almost uniformly dark reddish, with the abdominal segments III-VI slightly darker and the abdominal apex paler.



Figs 1-7: *Acanthoglossa orientis* (FAUVEL) (**1-3**: lectotype of *Cephisus orientis*; **4-7**: holotype of *A. abeillei*): (**1, 4**) habitus; (**2, 5**) forebody; (**3, 6**) aedeagus in lateral view; (**7**) male sternite VIII. Scale bars: 1, 4: 1.0 mm; 2, 5: 0.5 mm; 7: 0.2 mm; 3, 6: 0.1 mm.

Head (Figs 2, 5) approximately 1.15-1.20 times as wide as long; posterior margin conspicuously concave, posterior angles marked; punctation weakly areolate, moderately to

very coarse, and of variable density, dense in lateral portions of dorsal surface, with interstices much narrower than diameter of punctures, and somewhat sparser in median dorsal portion; interstices without distinct microsculpture; eyes small, only approximately 0.20-0.25 times as long as postocular region in dorsal view. Anterior margin of labrum not dentate, convex, in the middle narrowly and concavely incised. Labium on either side with 2-3 stout setae. Antennae short and distinctly incrassate apically; antennomere I approximately twice as long as wide, III 1.5 times as long as wide, IV approximately as long as wide, IX-X approximately twice as wide as long or nearly so.

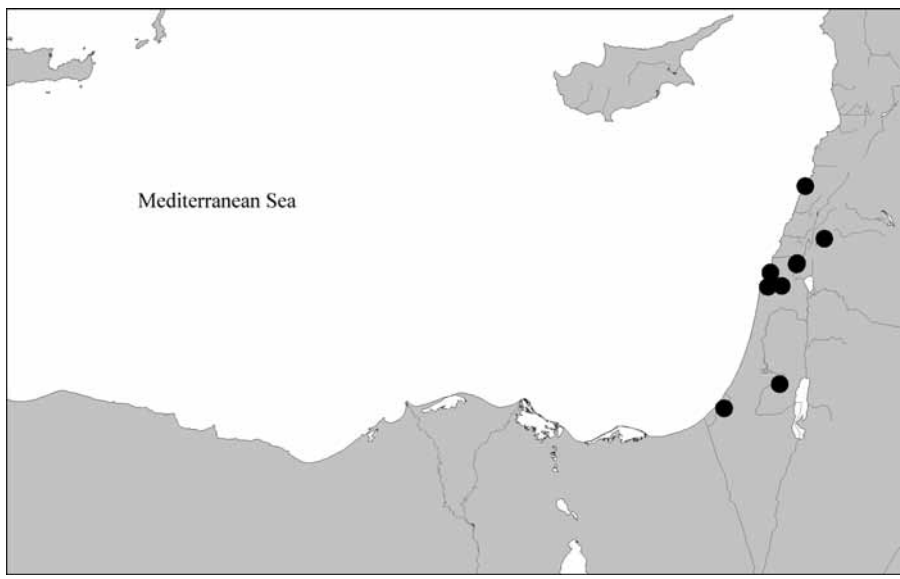
Pronotum approximately 1.10-1.15 times as wide as long and 0.9 times as wide as head, widest at anterior angles, and distinctly tapering posteriad; posterior angles weakly marked (Figs 2, 5); punctation similar to that of head; interstices without distinct microsculpture.

Elytra very short, 0.60-0.65 times as long as pronotum, suture approximately half as long as combined width at posterior margin; humeral angles obsolete (Figs 2, 5); elytral surface with or without shallow impressions anteriorly; punctation fine and dense. Hind wings apparently completely reduced. Legs relatively short. Protarsomeres I-IV moderately dilated and ventrally with dense long pubescence.

Abdomen 1.1-1.2 times as wide as elytra, widest at segments VI/VII (Figs 1, 4); tergites III-VI with anterior impressions; segment VII conspicuously long and large, approximately twice as long as segments III-VI; punctation very fine and very dense.

♂: sternite VII unmodified; sternite VIII without distinctly modified pubescence, posterior margin weakly concave, without distinct posterior excision (Fig. 7); aedeagus with apically acute and moderately bent (lateral view) ventral process (Figs 3, 6).

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII broadly convex.



Map 1: Distribution *Acanthoglossa orientis* (FAUVEL) in the Middle East.

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d b i o n o m i c s : The species has become known only from several localities in Israel and Lebanon (Map 1). One of the syntypes of *A. orientis* was apparently collected from an ant nest. Most of the specimens listed as additional material seem to have been found under stones.

Acanthoglossa hirta (KRAATZ 1859) (Figs 8-13)

Acanthoglossa hirta KRAATZ 1859: 144 f.

T y p e m a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Lectotype ♀: "158 / Ceylan / Acanthogl. hirta Kr. / Holotypus / coll. Kraatz / coll. DEI Müncheberg / Lectotypus ♀ Acanthoglossa hirta Kraatz, rev. V. Assing 2009" (SDEI).

A d d i t i o n a l m a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : 1♀, "Sumatra" (SDEI); 1♀, NE Sumatra, Tebing-tinggi, leg. Schultheiss (SDEI); 2♂♂, 1♀, South Korea, Jejudo, 5.V.1983, leg. Kwang Seob Lee (cSch, cAss).

C o m m e n t s : The original description of *A. hirta*, the type species of *Acanthoglossa* KRAATZ 1859, is based on an unspecified number of syntypes without specification of locality (KRAATZ 1859). One of these syntypes, a female, is deposited in the Kraatz collection at the SDEI. In using the term "Holotypus" for this specimen in a type catalogue, GAEDIKE (1981) unintentionally designated it as the lectotype. The habitus, the labrum, the labium, and the male sexual characters of the lectotype and additional specimens from Sumatra and South Korea are illustrated in Figs 8-11.

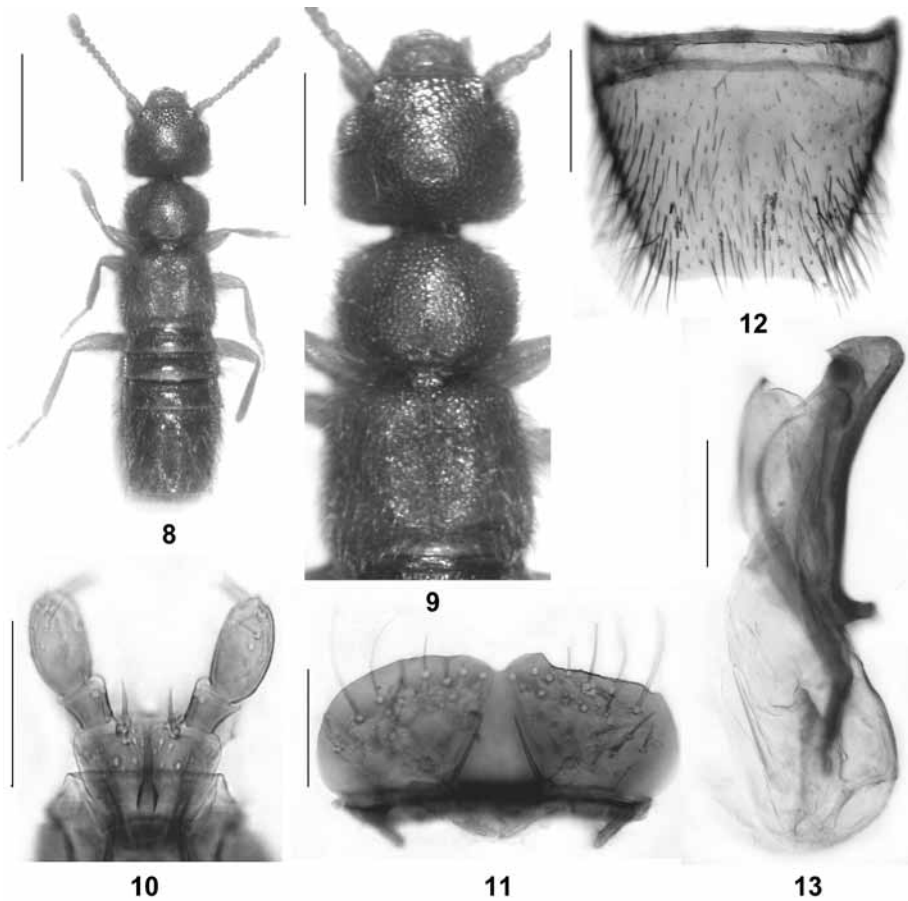
According to SMETANA (2004), *Acanthoglossa* is currently attributed to the subtribe Acanthoglossina. This subtribe was originally established (as Acanthoglossi) by COIFFAIT (1982), who included two genera, *Acanthoglossa* and *Chloecharis* LYNCH ARRIBÁLZAGA 1884, today a junior synonym of *Hypomedon* MULSANT & REY 1878. SMETANA (2004), however, lists *Hypomedon* in the subtribe Medonina. According to COIFFAIT (1982), the Acanthoglossina are distinguished from other subtribes of the Paederini by the morphology of the labium. Based on the present study, these differences are not confirmed and a separation of Acanthoglossina from Medonina seems unjustified. I have been unable to find any significant differences suggesting that *Acanthoglossa* should be the sister group or a more distant relative of the Medonina. Consequently, Acanthoglossina is placed in synonymy with Medonina. Moreover, based on an examination of the external morphology, the shape of the labrum, and the morphology of the aedeagus, *Cephisus orientis*, *Acanthoglossa longipennis*, and *A. deserticola* are undoubtedly congeneric. Also, *Acanthoglossa deserticola* is highly similar to the genotype of *Acanthoglossa*, *A. hirta*. The only difference in the mouthparts between the genotypes of *Acanthoglossa* and *Cephisella* is the number of long lateral setae on the labium (*A. hirta*: one on either side, *C. orientis*: two or three on either side). These findings suggest that all the above species are congeneric, that consequently they should all be attributed to the senior name *Acanthoglossa*, and that *Cephisella* represents a junior synonym of *Acanthoglossa*.

As far as the generic affiliations of the Mediterranean species currently attributed to *Acanthoglossa*, *Cephisella*, and also *Hypomedon* are concerned, several additional problems remain:

1. The morphology of the labrum (anterior margin in the middle sinuate, but not dentate), the ventral aspect of the head (gular sutures widely separated) and other external characters of *Hypomedon debilicornis* (WOLLASTON 1857), type species of *Hypomedon*, and *H. galilaeus* (BORDONI 1980) are similar to those of *Acanthoglossa orientis* and *A. hirta*.

Also, in other respects, no significant differences were observed suggesting that they should belong to different genera. The main morphological differences (habitus, length of elytra, microsculpture, etc.) may be attributable to intrageneric variation. However, this should be clarified in the context of a comprehensive phylogenetic analysis of the genera of Medonina.

2. Based on the morphology of the labrum (anterior margin clearly dentate on either side of median excision) and of the aedeagus, *Acanthoglossa rufa* KRAATZ 1859, a species recently referred to *Cephisella* (see LECOQ 1986) and recorded also from Oman (ASSING 2008b), is evidently not congeneric with *Acanthoglossa hirta*. Its true generic affiliations are unknown.



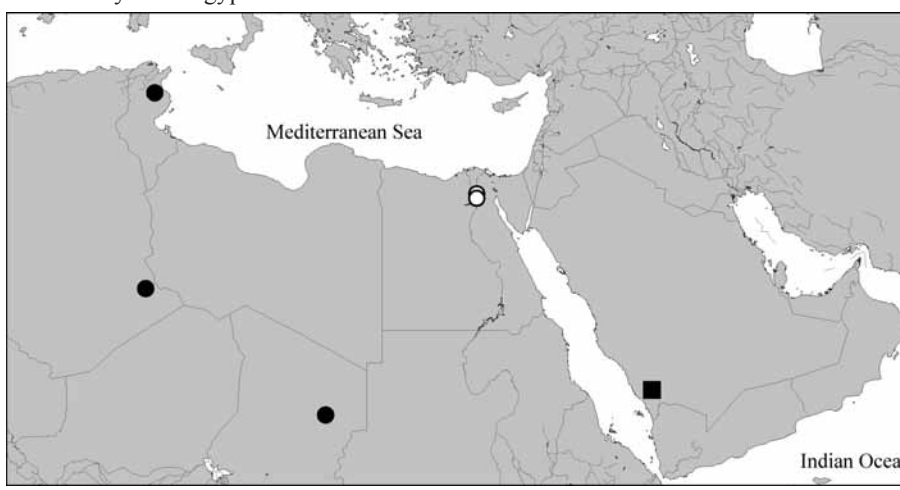
Figs 8-13: *Acanthoglossa hirta* KRAATZ (**8-9, 10**: syntype): (**8**) habitus; (**9**) forebody; (**10**) labium; (**11**) labrum; (**12**) male sternite VIII; (**13**) aedeagus in lateral view. Scale bars: 8: 1.0 mm; 9: 0.5 mm; 12: 0.2 mm; 10-11, 13: 0.1 mm.

Acanthoglossa longipennis (SAHLBERG 1908)

Cephisus longipennis SAHLBERG 1908: 32 f.
Cephisus ferrantei REITTER 1908: 39.
Acanthoglossa longipennis: COIFFAIT (1984).
Acanthoglossa longipennis: SMETANA (2004).

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Egypt: 1 ex., Beni Suef, El Shanawaya, 25.VI.1995, leg. Ullrich (MHNG).

C o m m e n t : Originally described in *Cephisus*, this species was subsequently attributed to *Acanthoglossa* (COIFFAIT 1984, SMETANA 2004). Based on the morphology of the male sexual characters (see figures 41 bis I-J in COIFFAIT 1984), it is a close relative of, and doubtlessly congeneric with *Acanthoglossa orientis*. The species has become known only from Egypt.



Map 1: Distributions of *Acanthoglossa punica* FAUVEL (filled circles), *A. crassa* COIFFAIT (filled square), and *Hypomedon niloticus* (KOCH) (open circles).

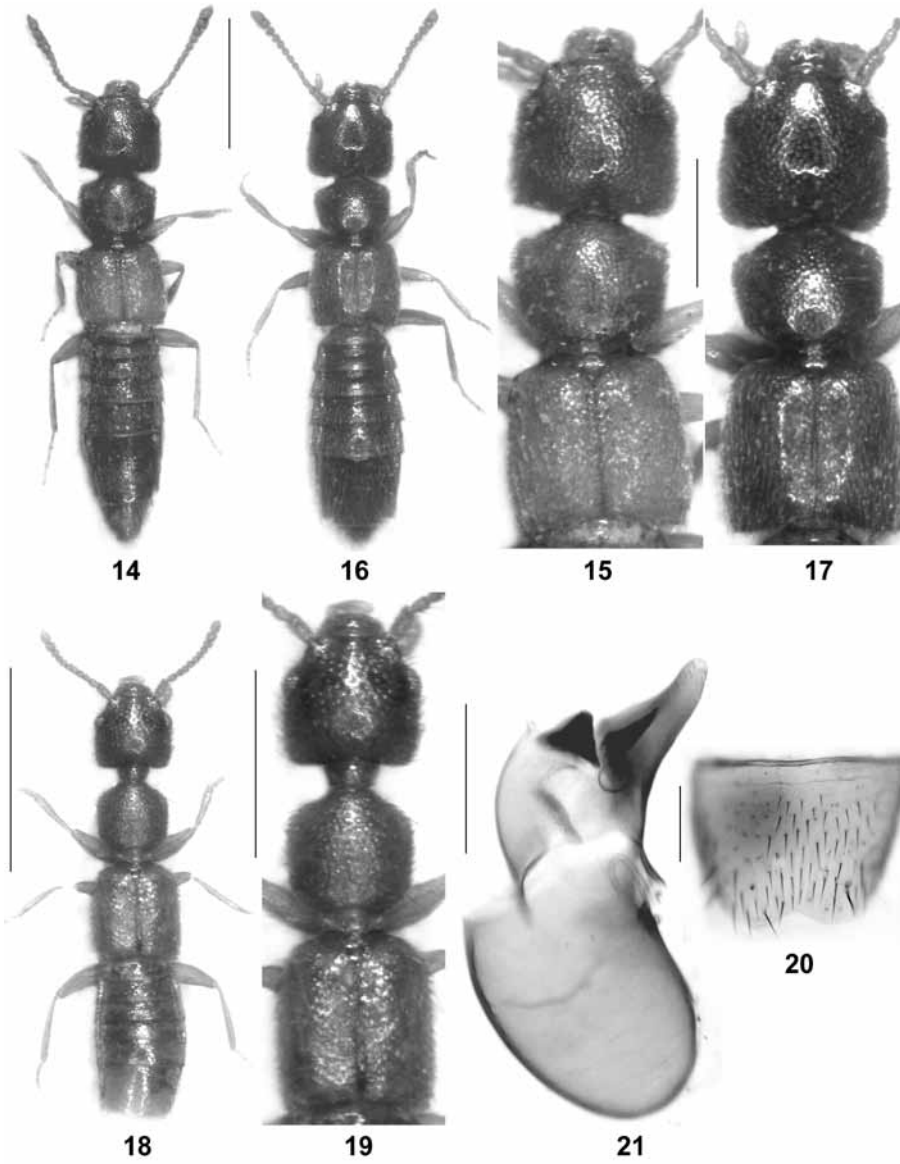
Acanthoglossa punica FAUVEL 1901 (Figs 14-15, Map 2)

Acanthoglossa (*Cephisus*) *punica* FAUVEL 1901: 250.
Acanthoglossa deserticola JARRIGE 1958: 89 f.; **nov.syn.**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Chad: 1♀, Ouadi Archeï ["Archié", 16°42'N, 21°18'E], 1500 m, 30.V.1958 (MNHNP).

C o m m e n t : *Acanthoglossa punica* was described based on a single male from "Kairouan, inondations, 10 (Dr Normand)" (FAUVEL 1901). The holotype was looked for, but found neither in the Fauvel collection at the IRSNB nor in the collections of the MNHNP (GÉRARD e-mail 29 June, 2009; TAGHAVIAN e-mail 29 June, 2009), suggesting that it is probably lost. All that was found is an *Acanthoglossa punica* label (without specimen) in the Jarrige collection at the MNHNP.

The original description of *A. deserticola* is based on a single male holotype from "st. 32 bis, Jardin du Beylik à Djanet" (JARRIGE 1958). The specimen was looked for, but not found in the collections of the MNHNP (TAGHAVIAN pers. comm.). The above female is the only specimen of *A. deserticola* deposited in the Jarrige collection.



Figs 14-21: *Acanthoglossa punica* FAUVEL from Chad (**14-15**), *A. crassa* COIFFAIT, holotype (**16-17**), and *Hypomedon niloticus* (KOCH) (**18-21**): (**14, 16, 18**) habitus; (**15, 17, 19**) forebody; (**20**) male sternite VIII; (**21**) aedeagus in lateral view. Scale bars: 14, 16, 18: 1.0 mm; 15, 17, 19: 0.5 mm; 20-21: 0.1 mm.

In the original description of *A. deserticola*, JARRIGE (1958) provides distinguishing characters separating the species from *A. longipennis*, but remarkably there is no reference whatsoever to *A. punica*, which leads to the conclusion that he may not have been aware of this species. An examination of the specimen listed above and identified by

Jarrige as *A. deserticola* revealed that it perfectly matches the original description of *A. punica*, suggesting that both names refer to the same species and that, consequently, *A. deserticola* is a junior synonym of *A. punica*.

Based on the detailed illustrations of the aedeagus provided by JARRIGE (1958: fig. 1), there is little doubt that *A. punica* is congeneric with *A. orientis*, *A. longipennis*, and *A. hirta*. The general morphology of the aedeagus, particularly the shape of the ventral process and the internal structures are highly similar. Externally, the species is similar to the type species of *Acanthoglossa*, *A. hirta* (see above).

D i a g n o s i s : Body length 3.6 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 14. Coloration: whole body reddish, with the elytra, legs, and antennae paler reddish-yellow.

Head (Fig. 15) 1.14 times as wide as long, weakly dilated posteriad; lateral margins behind eyes almost straight, posterior angles marked; posterior margin distinctly concave in the middle; punctation coarse, areolate, and very dense, slightly less dense in median dorsal area; interstices narrow, much narrower than diameter of punctures, without microsculpture; pubescence moderately long and erect to suberect; eyes strongly convex, slightly less than half as long as postocular region in dorsal view; labrum not dentate, with small V-shaped excision in the middle.

Pronotum approximately 1.2 times as wide as long, widest across anterior angles, and 0.95 times as wide as head; punctation similar to that of head, extremely dense; interstices reduced to narrow ridges; pubescence similar to that of head.

Elytra approximately as long, and 1.2 times as wide as pronotum. Metatarsomere I as long as the combined length of II and III. Abdomen approximately 0.9 times as wide as elytra, widest at segment VI; segment VI approximately twice as long as segment V; tergite VII with narrow palisade fringe.

♂: according to JARRIGE 1958, posterior margin of sternite VIII deeply excised; aedeagus as illustrated by JARRIGE (1958: figure 1).

D i s t r i b u t i o n : This species was previously known only from southeastern Algeria and northwestern Tunisia. The above specimen from Chad represents a new country record. The currently known distribution is illustrated in Map 2.

Acanthoglossa crassa COIFFAIT 1979 (Figs 16-17, Map 2)

Acanthoglossa crassa COIFFAIT 1979: 144 f.
T y p e m a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Holotype ♀: "Wadi Marba, Khamis M. 2050 m, 17.4. / Saudi Arab. 1976, Wittmer, Büttiker / Type / Acanthoglossa crassa H. Coiffait 1978" (NHMB).

C o m m e n t s : The original description is based on a single female from "Wadi Marba, Khamis Bushayt" (COIFFAIT 1979). The holotype is undoubtedly congeneric with *A. hirta* and *A. punica*. If, indeed, it is even conspecific with the latter is a question that can only by answered when males become available from Saudi Arabia. The holotype of *A. crassa* is highly similar to the female of *A. punica* seen from Chad; it is distinguished only by the somewhat darker coloration and by the slightly smaller pronotum. For illustrations of the habitus and the forebody see Figs 16-17. The species is currently known only from the type locality (Map 2).

***Hypomedon niloticus* (KOCH 1934)** (Figs 18-21, Map 2)

Medon niloticus KOCH 1934: 144 f.
Hypomedon niloticus: BORDONI (1980).
Chloeocharis niloticus: COIFFAIT (1984).
Sunius niloticus: SMETANA (2004).
Cephisella nilotica: ASSING (2008a).

Type material examined: Lectotype ♂, present designation: "Cairo, Pyramidi, Eg., 2.10.33, W. Wittmer / Lectotypus ♂ *Medon niloticus* Koch, desig. V. Assing 2009 / Hypomedon niloticus (Koch), det. V. Assing 2009" (NHMB). Paralectotypes: 1♀: "Sakkara Eg., 15.9.33, W. Wittmer / coll. Museo ent. 'Pietro Rossi' Duino / Medon niloticus mihi det. C. Koch" (NHMB); 2♀♀: "Sakkara Eg., 15.9.33, W. Wittmer / coll. Museo ent. 'Pietro Rossi' Duino / Sammlung G. Paganetti" (NHMB); 1♀: "Sakkara Eg., 15.9.33, W. Wittmer / Medon niloticus Koch / Museum Frey Tutzing" (NHMB).

Additional material examined: Egypt: 6♀♀ [2 exs. with type labels], Sakkara, 23.IX.1933, leg. Wittmer (NHMB).

Comment: The original description is based on an unspecified number of syntypes from "Kirdassah, 28.9.1933; Sakkarah, 15.9.1933; Pyramiden von Ghizeh, 2.X.1933" (KOCH 1934). Five syntypes, a male and four females, were located in the Frey collection at the NHMB; the male is designated as the lectotype. The Frey collection contains additional six females from "Sakkara". However, since the date of collection is not identical to that given in the original description, they cannot be considered types, although two of them had type labels attached to them. As can be inferred from the material studied by BORDONI (1980), a male syntype from "Kirdassah" and two non-type females from Kirdassah and Sakkara are deposited in the natural history museum in Milano.

The generic affiliations of *M. niloticus* have been a matter of controversy. Based on a study of a male syntype and additional material, BORDONI (1980) attributed the species to *Hypomedon*, a generic name which at that time was interpreted differently and included the species today in *Sunius* STEPHENS 1829. Four years later, COIFFAIT (1984) moved the species to *Chloecharis*, which is now a junior synonym of *Hypomedon*. Subsequently, SMETANA (2004) attributed *M. niloticus* to *Sunius*. In a revision of the Western Palaearctic *Sunius* species, ASSING (2008a) excluded it from the genus and transferred it to *Cephisella*, primarily based on the figure of the aedeagus provided by BORDONI (1980).

An examination of the above types and non-type specimens revealed that *M. niloticus* is undoubtedly congeneric with *Hypomedon debilicornis*, the type species of *Hypomedon*, and *H. galilaeus*. The illustration of the aedeagus provided by BORDONI (1980: Fig. 1a) is highly misleading.

Diagnosis: Similar in external appearance (Figs 18-19) to *H. debilicornis* and *H. galilaeus*, but distinguished from these species by smaller size and less pronounced microsculpture of head and pronotum, from *H. galilaeus* additionally by the more transverse head, more pronounced hind angles of the head, as well as by larger and much more bulging eyes.

♂: posterior margin of sternite VIII in the middle distinctly excised (more so than in *H. galilaeus*) (Fig. 20); aedeagus as in Fig. 21.

Distribution: This species has become known only from Egypt (Map 2).

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Zusammenfassung

Auf der Grundlage von Typenstudien und Untersuchungen weiteren Materials werden folgende Synonymisierungen vorgenommen: Medonina CASEY 1905 = Acanthoglossina COIFFAIT 1982, nov.syn.; *Acanthoglossa* KRAATZ 1859 = *Cephisella* FAGEL 1961, nov.syn., = *Cephisus* FAUVEL 1873, nov.syn.; *Acanthoglossa orientis* (FAUVEL 1873), nov.comb. = *A. abeillei* BERNHAUER 1902, nov.syn.; *A. punica* FAUVEL 1901 = *A. deserticola* JARRIGE 1958, nov.syn. Für *Cephisus orientis* FAUVEL wird ein Lectotypus designiert. *Acanthoglossa orientis* und *A. hirta* KRAATZ 1859, die Typusarten von *Cephisella* bzw. *Acanthoglossa*, sowie *A. punica*, *A. crassa* COIFFAIT 1979 und *Hypomedon niloticus* (KOCH 1934), nov.comb. werden abgebildet. Die Gattungszugehörigkeit der mediterranen *Acanthoglossa*- und *Hypomedon*-Arten wird diskutiert. Die derzeit bekannte Verbreitung von *Acanthoglossa orientis*, *A. punica*, *A. crassa* und *Hypomedon niloticus* wird anhand von Karten illustriert.

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