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A revision of *Leptobium* CASEY. III. A new species from Iran and additional records (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)

V. ASSING

A b s t r a c t : *Leptobium convexicolle* nov.sp. (Iran: Mazandaran) is described and illustrated. Additional records of eleven *Leptobium* species are reported from the Western Palaearctic region, among them the first records of *L. arabicum* COIFFAIT from Israel. The genus now includes 67 species and subspecies.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, *Leptobium*, Palaearctic region, Iran, taxonomy, new species, new records.

Introduction

According to a recent revision of *Leptobium* CASEY 1905, the genus has a Palaearctic distribution and includes a total of 62 valid species, with one species from Morocco and the Canary Islands represented by four subspecies (ASSING 1999, 2005, 2006, 2009a). An additional species was recently described from the Greek island Samos (ASSING 2009b). The vast majority of species are distributed in the Mediterranean region.

Since the latest instalment to the revision, additional material has become available from several museum collections and private collectors. This material not only yielded numerous additional records of zoogeographic interest, among them the first record of *L. arabicum* COIFFAIT from Israel, but also an undescribed species from Iran, so that the genus now comprises 67 species and subspecies.

Material, methods, and measurements

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

- MNHUB..... Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität Berlin (J. Frisch)
SDEI Senckenberg Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Müncheberg (L. Zerche)
TAU National Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University (A. Freidberg)
cAss..... author's private collection
cFel private collection B. Feldmann, Münster

cSch..... private collection M. Schülke, Berlin
 cSta private collection W. Starke, Warendorf
 cWun..... private collection P. Wunderle, Mönchengladbach

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.

Species descriptions and additional records

***Leptobium gracile* (GRAVENHORST 1802)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Turkey: Kastamonu: 12 exs., 25 km SE Tosya, Domkayatepe geçidi, 40°56'N, 34°14'E, 1600 m, partly flooded loamy meadow and road margin, under stones, 6.IV.2009, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., 40 km N Kastamonu, S Kayneak geçidi, 41°42'N, 33°41'1"E, 1250 m, calcareous slope, under stones, 10.IV.2009, leg. Assing (cAss); 11 exs., 12 km SE Tosya, 41°00'N, 34°E, 520 m, pasture with shrubs, under stones, 8.IV.2009, leg. Assing (cAss); 30 exs., 40 km NW Kastamonu, NE Azdavay, W Yeşilpinar, 41°42'N, 33°28'E, 1090 m, flooded field, under stones, 9.IV.2009, leg. Assing (cAss). S in o p : 5 exs., 15 km SW Sinop, S Kılıçlı, 41°57'N, 35°02'E, 80 m, grassy road margin, grass between shrubs, sifted, 3.IV.2009, leg. Assing, Wunderle (cAss, cWun). S a m s u n : 2 exs., 15 km NW Bafra, Karabogaz Gölü, 41°40'N, 35°48'E, 0 m, swampy meadow with *Juncus*, 30.III.2009, leg. Assing (cAss); 1 ex., 9 km WNW Bafra, 41°35'N, 35°50'E, 55 m, mixed deciduous forest with oak, *Hedera* and *Rubus* undergrowth, sifted, 30.III.2009, leg. Assing (cAss). V a n : 1 ex., Guzeldere geçidi, 2200 m, 5.VI.1998, leg. Sama (MNHUB). Israel: 1 ex. [det. Feldmann], Hadera, ca. 5 km SW Hadera, Derekhat Ya'ar reserve, 28.III.2008, leg. Aßmann (cFel). Kazakhstan: 1 ♂, Ural river, Dzhangala, 20.IV.1982, leg. Kastcheev (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium gracile* is the most widespread and common species of the genus, its distribution ranging from the Canary Islands to Middle Asia; for a map illustrating its distribution see ASSING (2005). It was only recently reported from Kazakhstan for the first time (ASSING 2009a).

***Leptobium illyricum* (ERICHSON 1840)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Bosnia-Herzegovina: 1 ex., Mostar, leg. Apfelbeck (MNHUB); 1 ex., locality not specified (MNHUB). Greece, Corfu: 4 exs., 20 km S Kerkyra, Limni Korissia, 39°26'N, 19°55'E, 8 m, shrubs, 4.X.2007, leg. Behne (DEI, cAss). Albania: 1 ex., Murthi Bis, Kara Ali Bey, 1936, leg. Bischoff (cAss). Probably mislabelled: 1 ex., "Austria", leg. Paganetti (MNHUB).

C o m m e n t : The Ponto-Mediterranean distribution of this species is illustrated in ASSING (2005).

***Leptobium syriacum* (SAULCY 1865)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Cyprus: 1 ex., Troodos, Platres, Caledonia water falls, 1300-1600 m, 18.XI.2003, leg. Tichý (cSch). Turkey: 1 ex., Adana, Kozan-Mansurlu, 37°34'N, 35°38'E,

730 m, 18.IV.2009, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1 ex., Hatay, Kızıldağ, SE Arsuz, 36°22'N, 35°56'E, 230 m, 10.IV.2009, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1 ex., Kızıldağ, E Madenli, 36°25'N, 36°06'E, 910 m, 11.IV.2009, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 1 ex., "Süd-Taurus", leg. Stehe (MNHUB). Israel: 1 ex., Golan Heights, Odem, 700 m, 21.II.1998, leg. Sama (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium syriacum* is widespread in the Eastern Mediterranean; for a map see ASSING (2005).

***Leptobium melanocephalum* (REICHE & SAULCY 1856)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Greece: 1 ex., locality not specified (MNHUB).

C o m m e n t : This species has become known only from Greece (ASSING 2005).

***Leptobium creticum* COIFFAIT 1973**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Greece, Crete: 1 ex., S Rhétimnon, Arménu, 22.III.1925, leg. Schulz (MNHUB).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium creticum* is endemic to Crete (ASSING 2005).

***Leptobium paivae* (WOLLASTON 1865)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Ilhas Selvagens: Selvagem Grande: 5♂♂, 3♀♀, SE-part of island, Levada do Cermitério, 24.XI.2008, leg. Putzer (cAss); 7♂♂, 9♀♀, Levada do Cemitério, 9.XI.2008, leg. Putzer (cAss); 4♂♂, 1♀, SE-part of island, under stones after rain, 18.XI.2008, leg. Putzer (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium paivae* is one of the two endemic species of Staphylinidae of the Selvagens islands (ASSING & SCHÜLKE 2006). Only recently, it was recorded in larger numbers for the first time after approximately 80 years (ASSING 2009a).

***Leptobium ponticum* ASSING 2005**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Turkey: S in o p : 28 exs., 15 km SW Sinop, S Kılıçlı, 41°57'N, 35°02'E, 80 m, grassy road margin, grass between shrubs, sifted, 3.IV.2009, leg. Assing, Wunderle (cAss, cWun); 22 exs., ca. 22 km S Sinop, N Lala, 41°53'N, 35°03'E, 160 m, oak and laurel forest with undergrowth, sifted, 31.III.2009, leg. Assing, Wunderle (cAss, cWun); 1 ex., 30 km SW Sinop, 7 km NW Erfelek, 41°58'N, 34°50'E, 65 m, mixed deciduous forest (*Carpinus*, *Quercus*, *Laurus*), sifted, 2.IV.2009, leg. Wunderle (cWun).

C o m m e n t : This recently described species was previously known only from the type locality near Sinop. The new records suggest that it is not uncommon in Sinop province.

***Leptobium artum* (KARSCH 1881)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Morocco: 1 ex., Asilah, road no. 1, stream ca. 4 km S Asilah, 35°25'N, 6°02'W, 25 m, 11.IV.2009, leg. Andújar (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium artum* is widespread in Northwest Africa; its distribution is mapped by ASSING (2005).

***Leptobium juani* COIFFAIT 1969**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Spain: 1 ex., Alicante, Sierra de Bernia, Cueva del Forat, 17.V.2009, leg. Andújar (cAss).

C o m m e n t : This species is apparently endemic to some mountain ranges in the surroundings of Alicante (ASSING 2005).

***Leptobium assingi* BORDONI 1994**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Turkey: 1 ex., Kahramanmaraş, W Başkonuş Yaylası, 37°34'N, 36°34'E, 1160 m, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss); 2 exs., Hatay, Nur Dağları, E Yakacık, 36°42'N, 36°15'E, 520 m, 23.IV.2009, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

C o m m e n t : The distribution of *L. assingi* is confined to southern Anatolia, from Antalya in the west to Gaziantep in the east (ASSING 2005, 2006).

***Leptobium bicarinatum* ASSING 2005**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Turkey: 1 ex., Şenköy, 36°02'N, 36°07'E, 920 m, 13.IV.2009, leg. Brachat & Meybohm (cAss).

C o m m e n t : *Leptobium bicarinatum* has been recorded only from Hatay province in central southern Anatolia (ASSING 2005).

***Leptobium venustum* (BAUDI DI SELVE 1848)**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Israel: 4 exs., ca. 70 km SW Tel Aviv, Bitronot Be'eri Reserve, 35°26'N, 34°29'E, leg. Aßmann (cFel, cAss); 1 ex., Negev, S Beér-Sheva, 31°09'N, 34°48'E, II.2005, leg. Aßmann (cFel); 1 ex., Galilee, Karmil-el, 32°55'N, 35°19'E, 18.II.2005, leg. Aßmann (cFel); 1 ex., Wadi Rhumver, 30.XII.1911, leg. Brühl (MNHUB).

C o m m e n t : The distribution of *L. venustum* is confined to the Middle East from Lebanon to the Sinai Peninsula (ASSING 2005).

***Leptobium arabicum* COIFFAIT 1981**

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : Israel: 9 exs., Negev, Sedé Boqér, 30°53'N, 34°47'E, 500 m, 4.XII.2007, leg. Aßmann (TAU, cAss, cFel, cSta); 1 ex., Negev, Dimona, II.1998, leg. Sama (MNHUB).

C o m m e n t : In contrast to the material previously seen from Saudi Arabia and northern Yemen, the above specimens have the forebody uniformly reddish brown. The male sexual characters, however, are identical. The above specimens represent the first records from Israel.

***Leptobium convexicolle* nov.sp. (Figs 1-5, Map 3)**

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "Iran, Prov. Mazandaran [IR08-17], Chalus County, Elburz Mts., N-slope, 7 km N Makarud, small stream, Fagus forest, 1245 m, 36°35'64.9"N, 51°09'55.4"E [recte: 36°35.649"N, 51°09.554"E], 03.VI.2008, leg. A. Pütz / Holotypus ♂ *Leptobium convexicolle* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2009" (cAss).

D e s c r i p t i o n : Habitus as in Fig. 1. Measurements (in mm) and ratios (holotype): length of head (HL): 1.15; head width (HW): 1.07; width of pronotum (PW): 1.14; length of pronotum (PL): 1.30; length of elytra (EL): 0.83; length of metatibia (TiL): 1.03; length of metatarsus (TaL): 0.93; length of median lobe of aedeagus: 1.55; total length: 8.5; HL/HW: 1.08; PW/HW: 1.07; PL/PW: 1.14; EL/PL: 0.64; TiL/TaL: 1.11.

Coloration of the *L. illyricum* type: head and pronotum black; elytra reddish; abdomen

black, with the apex (posterior 2/5 of segment VII, segments VIII-X) reddish; legs and antennae pale-reddish.

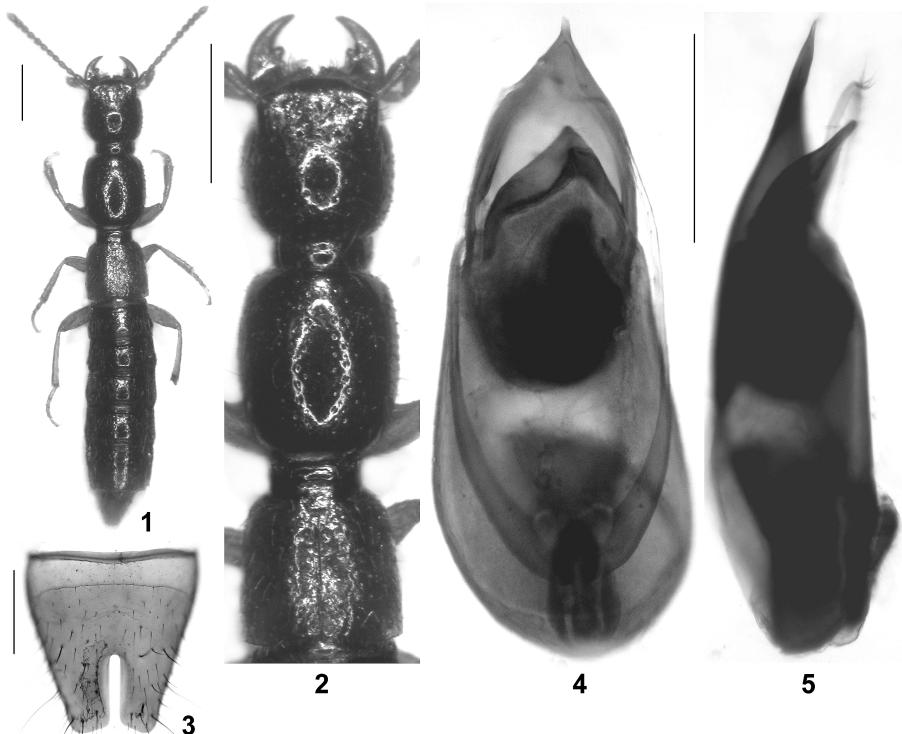
Head weakly oblong (see ratio HL/HW); macropunctuation coarse, sparse, with interspersed micropunctuation. Eyes not distinctly projecting from lateral contours of head and small, approximately half the length of postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 2).

Pronotum slightly broader than head (see ratio PW/HW) and weakly oblong (see ratio PL/PW), strongly convex in cross-section; lateral margins convex in dorsal view; punctuation similar to that of head, irregularly spaced (Fig. 2).

Elytra short (see ratio EL/PL). Hind wings absent.

Abdomen with rather sparse punctuation and with shallow transverse microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

δ : posterior incision of sternite VII slightly less than half the length of sternite (Fig. 3); aedeagus 1.55 mm long; dorsal plate almost symmetric, apically very acute, and without distinct dorsal carinae; ventral process weakly asymmetric (Figs 4-5).



Figs 1-5: *Leptobium convexus* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) male sternite VIII; (4-5) aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view. Scale bars: 1-2: 1.0 mm; 3-5: 0.5 mm.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : In the key in ASSING (2005a), the new species would key out at couplet 36, together with *L. syriacum*. From this species, *L. convexus* is distinguished by smaller eyes, a less densely punctate and less oblong pronotum with convex lateral margins (dorsal view), shorter elytra, the complete absence of a palisade

fringe at the posterior margin of the less extensively reddish abdominal tergite VII, and particularly by the different morphology of the aedeagus (distinctly smaller, symmetric and apically more acute dorsal plate, and weakly asymmetric ventral process).

E t y m o l o g y : The name (Latin, adjective: with convex pronotum) refers to the conspicuously convex pronotum, one of the characters distinguishing this species from similar congeners.

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 type locality is situated in Mazandaran province, northern Iran. The holotype was collected in a beech forest near a stream at an altitude of approximately 1250 m.

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I am indebted to the colleagues indicated in the material section for the loan and gift of material, respectively. Special thanks are due to Andreas Pütz (Eisenhüttenstadt) for the generous gift of the holotype of *L. convexicolle*. Benedikt Feldmann proof-read the manuscript.

Zusammenfassung

Leptobium convexicolle nov.sp. (Iran: Mazandaran) wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Weitere Nachweise von elf *Leptobium*-Arten werden aus der Westpaläarktis gemeldet, darunter Erstnachweise von *L. arabicum* COIFFAIT aus Israel. Einschließlich der neu beschriebenen Art enthält die Gattung derzeit 67 Arten und Unterarten.

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