

Linzer biol. Beitr.	42/2	1177-1181	19.12.2010
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**A new micropterous species of *Deropoda*, subgenus of *Oxypoda*,
from Italy
(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae: Oxypodini)**

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A b s t r a c t : *Oxypoda (Deropoda) extensiceps* nov.sp. (Italy: Lazio), a micropterous species with a conspicuously oblong head, is described, illustrated, and distinguished from similar consubgenera.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Italy, taxonomy, *Oxypoda*, *Deropoda*, new species.

Introduction

Italy has had a long tradition of entomological activity and its staphylinid fauna is better known than those of most other regions in the Mediterranean. According to the recent Palaearctic catalogue (SMETANA 2004) and an updated version of this catalogue (SCHÜLKE unpubl.), nearly 2800 species and subspecies of Staphylinidae (exclusive of the Scydmaeninae) are currently known from Italian territory. Nevertheless, new species are being discovered even today, though in relatively small numbers.

The subgenus *Deropoda* BERNHAUER 1902 of the speciose aleocharine genus *Oxypoda* MANNERHEIM 1830 is confined to the Western Palaearctic region and currently represented by 23 species (ASSING 2003, 2004a-b, 2006, 2010; SMETANA 2004). Five species have been recorded from Italy: *O. amicta* ERICHSON 1839, *O. depressipennis* (AUBÉ 1862), *O. graeca* KRAATZ 1855, *O. mutata* SHARP 1871, and *O. reyi* ZERCHE 1994 (SMETANA 2004). Only two of them are micropterous, *O. graeca* and *O. depressipennis*. According to PORTA (1926), *O. graeca* was reported from Toscana by one Bertolini, probably Stefano di Bertolini (1832-1905). This record has apparently never been re-examined and should be considered doubtful.

In material of Staphylinidae kindly made available to me by Peter Hlaváč (Košice), three specimens of a remarkable micropterous species of *Deropoda* were discovered. Externally, this micropterous species is characterized by a conspicuously oblong head, which readily distinguishes it from all other micropterous *Deropoda* species.

Material and methods

The material referred to in this study is deposited in the author's collection.

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

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, and the length of the aedeagus from the apex of the median lobe (ventral process) to the base of the capsule.

Description

Oxypoda (Deropoda) extensiceps nov.sp. (Figs 1-9)

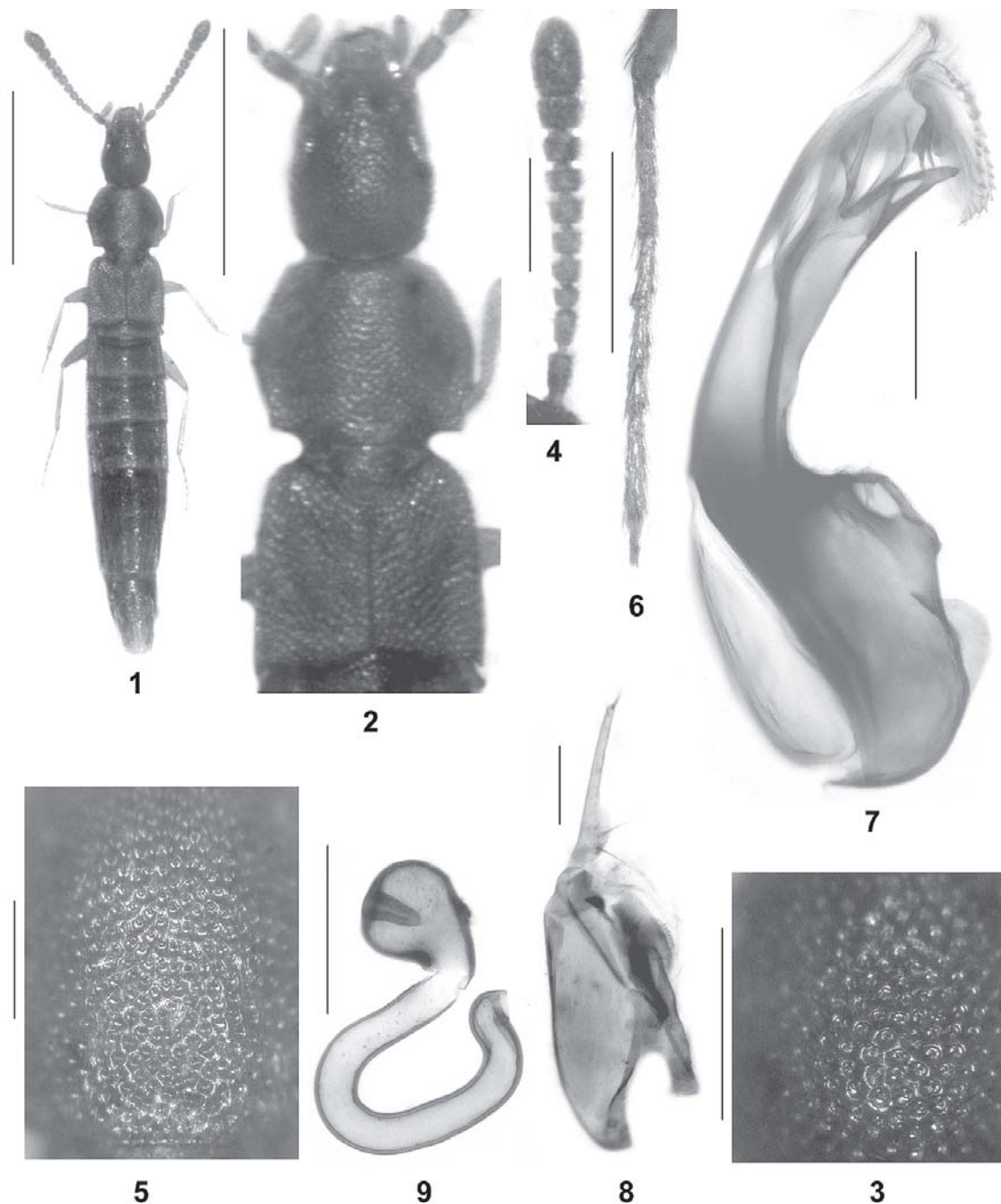
Type material: Holotype ♂: "Italy - Lazio, Veroli, M. Ernici, Prato di Campoli, 1000 m, 26.IV.2010, leg. Magrini / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda extensiceps* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2010".
Paratypes: 2 ♀ ♀: same data as holotype.

Description: Body length 2.9-3.3 mm (abdomen fully extended). Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: body reddish, with abdominal segment VI infuscate; legs dark-yellowish; antennae reddish.

Head conspicuously oblong, approximately 1.4 times as long as wide (Fig. 2); dorsal surface matt due to extremely dense and coarse punctation (Fig. 3). Eyes small (Fig. 2) and weakly convex, not projecting from lateral contours of head, approximately half as long as postocular portion in dorsal view. Antenna (Fig. 4) of moderate length, approximately 0.7 mm long, and weakly incrassate apically; antennomere III slightly less than twice as long as broad and distinctly shorter than II; IV-X moderately transverse and gradually increasing in width; X less approximately 1.5 times as wide as long; XI slightly longer than the combined length of IX and X. Maxillary palpus slender, preapical palpomere approximately 3 times as long as broad.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) very weakly transverse, 1.10-1.15 times as wide as long and approximately 1.55 times as wide as head, maximal width approximately in the middle; lateral and posterior margins sinuate near posterior angles; near lateral margins weakly and longitudinally impressed in posterior half; posterior angles marked, almost rectangular; dorsal surface matt due to very dense and coarse punctation (Fig. 5).

Elytra (Fig. 2) short, approximately 0.75 times as long and approximately as wide as pronotum; along lateral margins longitudinally impressed; lateral margins consequently bulging, almost carinate; posterior margin with small and not very deep concavity near posterior angles; punctation coarser and more confluent than that of head and pronotum; surface with subdued shine, less matt than head and pronotum. Hind wings reduced, rudiments not projecting beyond posterior margins of elytra. Legs slender; metatarsus (Fig. 6) 0.33-0.40 mm long, almost as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I elongated, approximately as long as the combined length of II-IV.



Figs 1-9: *Oxypoda extensiceps* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) median dorsal portion of head; (4) antenna; (5) postero-median portion of pronotum; (6) metatarsus; (7) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (8) paramere; (9) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2: 0.5 mm; 4, 6: 0.2 mm; 3, 5, 7-9: 0.1 mm.

Abdomen widest at base and gradually tapering posteriad (Fig. 1); tergites III and IV matt due to very dense punctation; punctation of tergites V-VII increasingly sparser; interstices without microsculpture and glossy; posterior margin of tergite VII with very fine, barely noticeable rudiment of a palisade fringe.

♂: posterior margin of sternite VIII distinctly produced, strongly convex in the middle; median lobe of aedeagus (Fig. 7) approximately 0.45 mm long; apex of ventral process conspicuously acute; apical lobe of paramere long and slender (Fig. 8).

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII weakly convex and with row of long stout marginal setae; spermatheca as in Fig. 9.

E t y m o l o g y : The name is a noun in apposition and is composed of the Latin adjective *extensus* (stretched) and the noun *ceps* (head). It refers to the conspicuous shape of the head.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : The species is readily distinguished from all other representatives of the subgenus by the strongly oblong head and by the morphology of the aedeagus. It is additionally separated from the micropterous and similarly coloured *O. depressipennis* and *O. graeca* as follows:

from *O. depressipennis* by the larger eyes, the shorter and less slender antennae, and by the more slender body;

from *O. graeca* by the shape of the antennae (*O. graeca*: antennomeres II and III of equal length; antennomeres IV and V as long as broad), the coarser punctation of the head (*O. graeca*: "mässig fein ... punktirt" (KRAATZ 1855)), the more slender pronotum (*O. graeca*: "kaum um die Hälfte breiter als lang, nach hinten etwas stärker als nach vor verengt, der Hinterrand sehr wenig gerundet, aber sehr flach gewölbt, eben").

The habitus of *O. depressipennis* is illustrated by TRONQUET (2006), based on a specimen collected in Var (Provence), close to the type locality of that species. The comparison with *O. graeca* is based on the original description by KRAATZ (1855). For illustrations of the aedeagi of *O. reyi* and *O. mutata* see ZERCHE (1994). For illustrations of the similarly coloured micropterous, small-eyed *O. andalusiaca* ASSING 2003 from southern Spain see ASSING (2003).

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 the Monti Ernici, Lazio. The reduced wings and the absence of previous records suggest that the species has a restricted distribution. The specimens were collected together with several specimens of *Leptusa sibyllinica* PACE 1977 and of an unidentified species of *Geostiba* THOMSON 1858.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Peter Hlaváč for the generous gift of the staphylinid material which included the type specimens of *O. extensiceps*. Benedikt Feldmann (Münster) proof-read the manuscript.

Zusammenfassung

Oxypoda (Deropoda) extensiceps nov.sp. (Italien: Lazio), eine brachyptere Art mit auffällig langgestrecktem Kopf, wird beschrieben, abgebildet und von ähnlichen *Deropoda*-Arten unterschieden.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Linzer biologische Beiträge](#)

Jahr/Year: 2010

Band/Volume: [0042_2](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Assing Volker

Artikel/Article: [A new micropterous species of Deropoda, subgenus of Oxypoda, from Italy \(Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae: Oxypodini\) 1177-1181](#)