

Linzer biol. Beitr.	48/2	1119-1136	19.12.2016
---------------------	------	-----------	------------

New species of *Oxyroda* from Armenia and Georgia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

Volker ASSING

Abstract: Six species of *Oxyroda* MANNERHEIM, 1830 from Armenia and Georgia are described and illustrated: *Oxyroda (Oxyroda) flexa* nov.sp. (Armenia), *O. (O.) articollis* nov.sp. (Georgia), *O. (Deropoda) levipunctata* nov.sp. (Armenia), *O. (Thliboptera) infissoides* nov.sp. (Armenia), *O. (Bessopora) grandicristata* nov.sp. (Armenia), and *O. (Sphenoma) subplicata* nov.sp. (Armenia). *Oxyroda recondita* KRAATZ, 1856, previously in the subgenus *Baeoglana* THOMSON, 1867, is assigned to *Bessopora* THOMSON, 1859.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, Oxyrodini, *Oxyroda*, Armenia, Georgia, taxonomy, new species, new subgeneric assignment.

Introduction

The speciose genus *Oxyroda* MANNERHEIM, 1830 is currently represented in the Palearctic region by more than 470 described species in 13 subgenera (ASSING 2012, SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015). The status of some of the subgenera and the identity of numerous species require revision.

The *Oxyroda* fauna of parts of the Caucasus region has largely been neglected in the past. According to SCHÜLKE & SMETANA (2015), only twelve species have been reported from Georgia and, remarkably, just a single species (*O. vittata* MÄRKEL, 1842) has been recorded from Armenia.

A field trip to Armenia conducted by Michael Schülke (Berlin) and the author in summer 2016 yielded records of at least 19 species of *Oxyroda*, five of them undescribed, twelve described, and at least one species of *Baeoglana* THOMSON, 1867, a subgenus that requires revision. The undescribed species are treated in the present paper, together with the description of one species from Georgia, whose holotype was made available to me by Andreas Pütz (Eisenhüttenstadt). The remaining records from Armenia will be dealt with in a comprehensive article currently in preparation on the Staphylinidae fauna of Armenia (ASSING & SCHÜLKE in prep.).

Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the following collections:

MHNG Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Genève (G. Cuccodoro)

MNB Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin (including also the collection of Michael Schülke)
 NHMW Naturhistorisches Museum Wien (H. Schillhammer)
 OÖLL..... Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum/Biologiezentrum Linz (F. Gusenleitner)
 cAss..... author's private collection
 cFel private collection Benedikt Feldmann, Münster

The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using a photographing device constructed by Arved Lompe (Nienburg) and CombineZ software, as well as a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995). The map was created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the labrum to the abdominal apex, the length of the forebody from the anterior margin of the labrum to the posterior margin of the elytra, head length along the middle from the anterior margin of the clypeus to the posterior carina 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 median lobe of the aedeagus from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the capsule. The "parameral" side (i.e., the side where the sperm duct enters) is referred to as the ventral, the opposite side as the dorsal aspect.

Descriptions

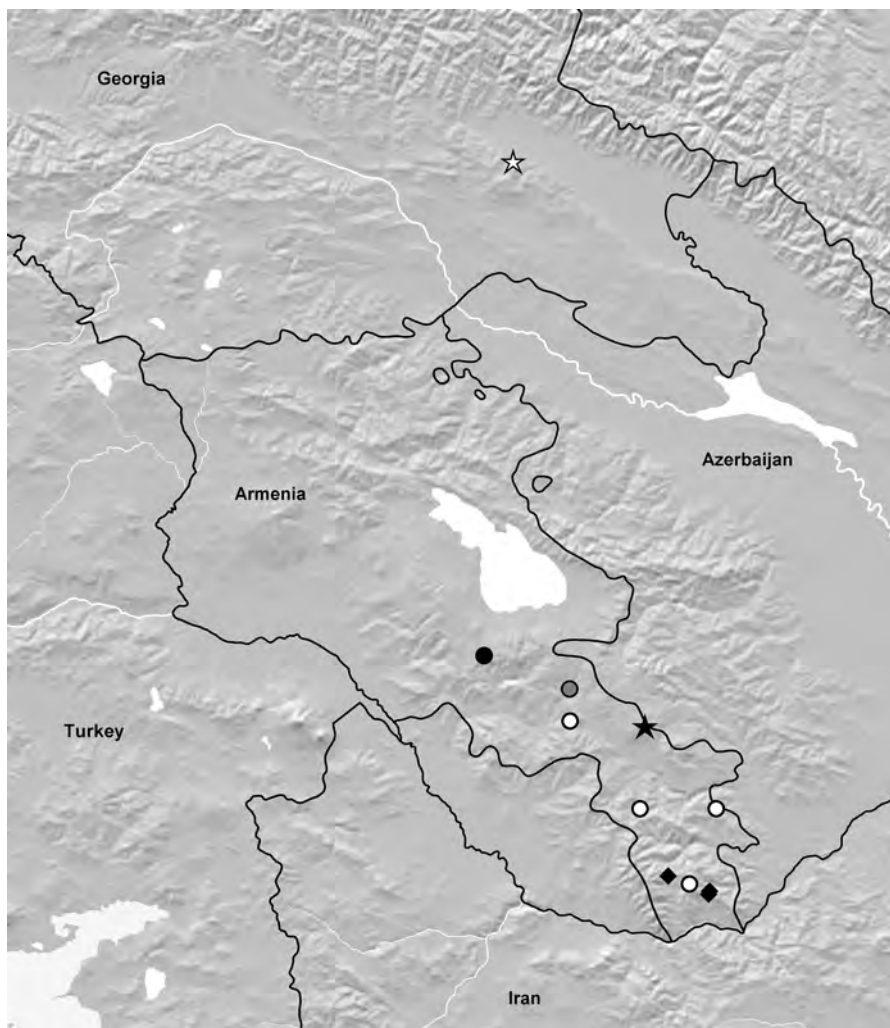
Oxypoda (Oxypoda) flexa nov.sp. (Figs 1-8)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "ARMENIA [9] - S Martuni, Sulema Pass, 39°57'58"N, 45°14'13"E 2340 m, near stream, 29.VI.2016, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda flexa* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss). Paratypes: 5♂♂, 8♀♀: same data as holotype (cAss); 1♂, 3♀♀: "ARMENIA [9a] - S Martuni, Sulema Pass, 39°57'58"N, 45°14'13"E 2340 m, rocky slope, 29.VI.2016, V. Assing" (cAss).

Etymology: The specific epithet is the past participle of the Latin verb *flectere* (to bend) and alludes to the strongly curved ventral process of the aedeagus in lateral view.

Description: Body length 5.0-6.5 mm; length of forebody 2.5-2.8 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: head and pronotum blackish; elytra dark-yellowish with the scutellar region and the postero-lateral portion extensively infuscate; abdomen blackish, with the posterior margins of tergites III-VI narrowly and the posterior portions of tergites VII-VIII more broadly brownish; legs dark-yellowish to pale-brown, with the tarsi yellow and the femora often slightly darker than the tibiae; antennae blackish, sometimes with the basal 1-2 antennomeres slightly paler.

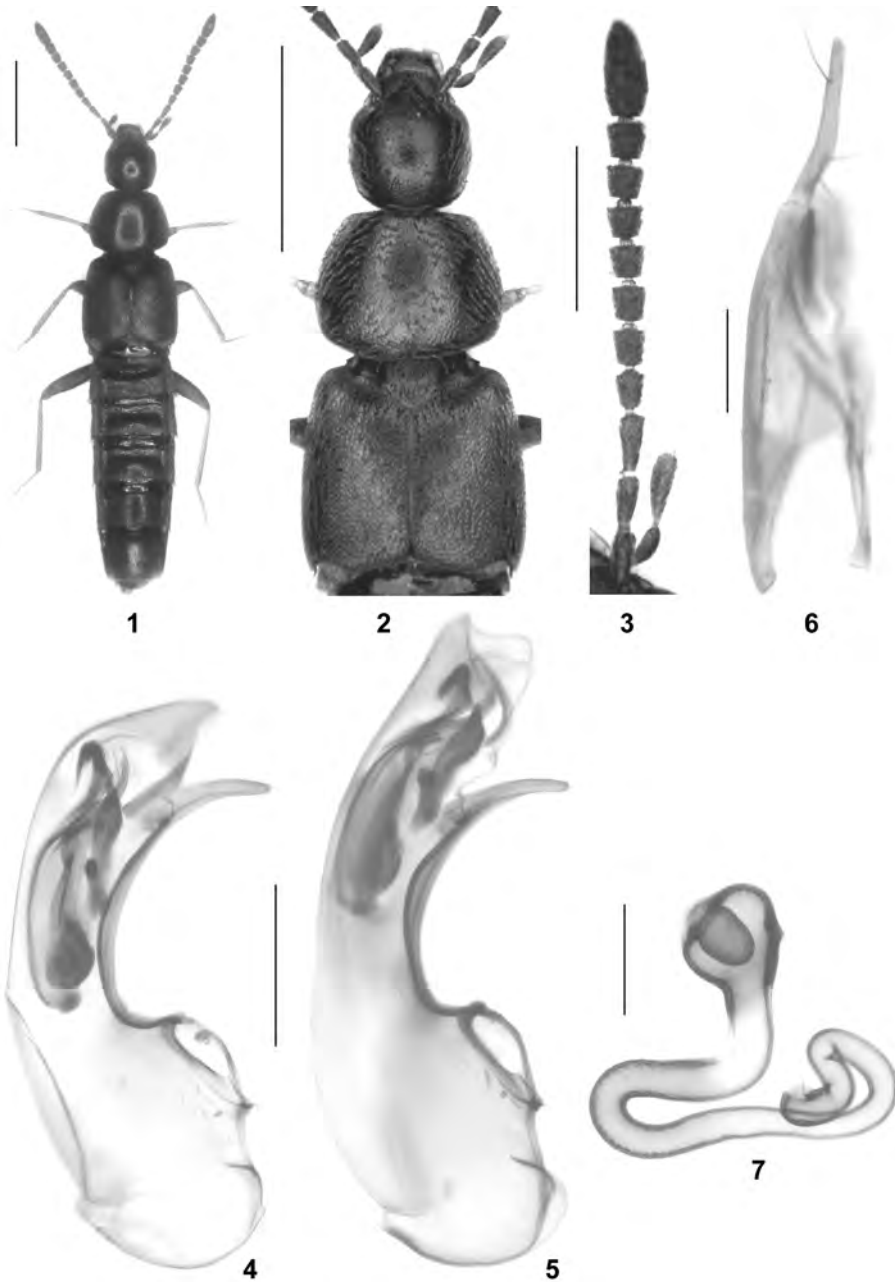
Head (Fig. 2) approximately as long as broad; punctation dense and very fine, indistinct in the pronounced microreticulation; dorsal surface nearly matt. Eyes large, but weakly prominent, as long as, or slightly shorter than postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna (Fig. 3) 1.6-1.8 mm long and slender; antennomeres IV-V weakly oblong, VI approximately as broad as long, VII-X weakly transverse, X much less than 1.5 times as broad as long, and XI approximately three times as long as broad, nearly as long as the combined length of VIII-X, without sexual dimorphism. Maxillary palpus slender; palpomere III nearly four times as long as broad.



Map 1: Distributions of *Oxyptoda articollis* nov.sp. (white star), *O. flexa* nov.sp. (black circle), *O. infissooides* nov.sp. (black, grey, and white circles), *O. grandicristata* nov.sp. (grey circle), *O. levipunctata* nov.sp. (black star), and *O. subplicata* nov.sp. (black diamonds) in Armenia and Georgia.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) moderately broad, approximately 1.25 times as broad as long and 1.5 times as broad as head, broadest in, or slightly behind middle; punctuation fine and dense, more distinct than that of head; interstices with very shallow microreticulation.

Elytra (Fig. 2) approximately as long as pronotum, with very dense, moderately fine, and somewhat asperate punctuation; interstices with microreticulation; posterior margin strongly sinuate near postero-lateral angles. Hind wings present. Legs slender; metatibia approximately 0.9 mm long; metatarsus nearly as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of metatarsomeres II-IV.



Figs 1-7: *Oxypoda flexa* nov.sp.: (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) antenna; (4-5) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (6) paramere; (7) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1-2: 1.0 mm; 3: 0.5 mm; 4-6: 0.2 mm; 7: 0.1 mm.



Fig. 8: Type locality of *Oxypoda flexa* nov.sp.

Abdomen gradually tapering posteriorly; punctuation very dense and fine, as dense on tergite VII as on anterior tergites; tergites III-V with moderately pronounced anterior impressions; posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe.

♂: sternite VIII angularly produced posteriorly; median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 4-5) 0.6 mm long; ventral process deeply bifid (ventral view) and strongly arched (lateral view); internal sac with distinctly sclerotized structures apically, dorsally with a moderately long flagellum; paramere (Fig. 6) 1.1 mm long, apical lobe slender, less than half as long as basal portion.

♀: sternite VIII broadly convex posteriorly; spermatheca as in Fig. 7.

Comparative notes: *Oxypoda flexa* is distinguished from all its congeners particularly by the conspicuously arched ventral process of the aedeagus. The spermatheca somewhat resembles that of the syntopic *O. vittata* and especially that of the nidicolous *O. longipes* MULSANT & REY, 1861. From these species, *O. flexa* is additionally separated as follows:

from *O. vittata* by a more slender habitus, a relatively smaller pronotum (in relation to the head and elytra), distinctly longer and more massive antennae, distinctly longer and darker legs, and a posteriorly less strongly tapering abdomen;

from *O. longipes* by a more slender habitus, a relatively smaller pronotum (in relation to the head and elytra), longer and more massive antennae with less slender antennomeres IV-X, slightly longer legs, a posteriorly less strongly tapering abdomen, and slightly less dense and less fine abdominal punctuation.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality (Fig. 8) is situated at the Sulema pass, to the south of Martuni, at an altitude of 2340 m. The specimens were sifted from moist roots, soil, and debris near a small stream and from roots and moss on a rocky slope. One specimen of *O. vittata* was found in the same locality. Some of the type specimens are slightly teneral.

***Oxypoda (Oxypoda) articollis nov.sp.* (Figs 9-15)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "GEORGIA, Caucasus [10] (Kachetia), Tsiv-Gombori Mts. rng., 5 km W of Telavi, sift, *Fagus orientalis* forest, 1091 m, 41°53'59.6"N, 45°23'43.2"E, 08.VII.2015, leg. A. Pütz / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda articollis* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss).

Etymology: The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the slender pronotum.

Description: Body length 6.0 mm; length of forebody 2.6 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 9. Coloration: head blackish-brown; pronotum dark-brown; elytra yellowish-brown with the scutellar region and the postero-lateral portions only indistinctly darker; abdomen brown, with the posterior margins of tergites III-V, the posterior half of tergite VII, and segments VIII-X yellowish-red to dark-reddish; legs dark-yellowish; antennae with the basal antennomeres reddish, gradually becoming darker towards apex, apical antennomeres dark-brown; maxillary palpi reddish.

Head (Fig. 10) weakly oblong; punctation rather dense, fine, but distinct; interstices with pronounced microreticulation and practically matt. Eyes small and weakly prominent, approximately half as long as postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna (Fig. 11) 2.0 mm long and very slender; antennomeres IV-X oblong; antennomere XI approximately three times as long as broad and longer than the combined length of IX and X. Maxillary palpus slender; palpomere III approximately four times as long as broad.

Pronotum (Fig. 10) slender, only 1.12 times as broad as long and 1.25 times as broad as head, broadest approximately in the middle; punctation fine and very dense; interstices with pronounced microreticulation and matt.

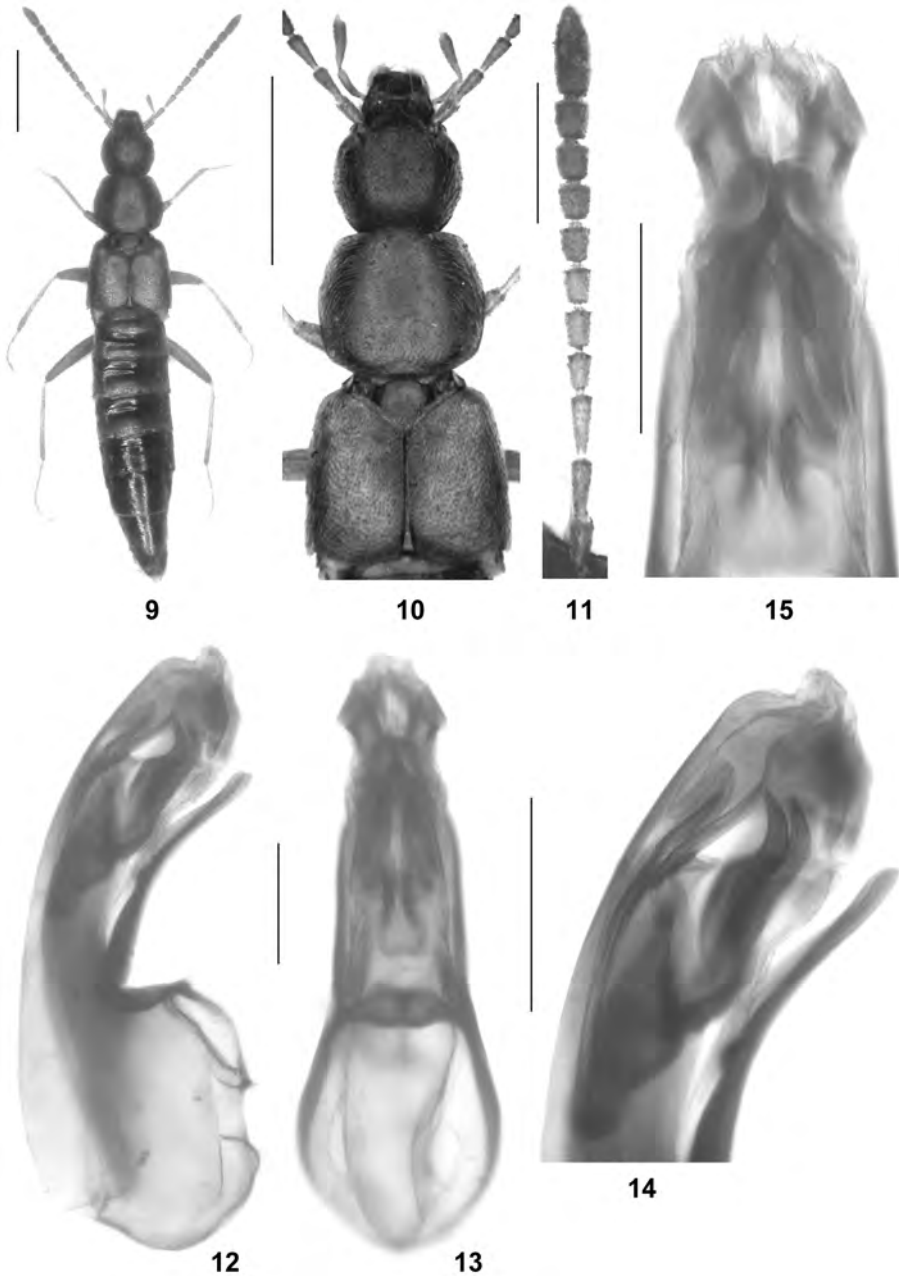
Elytra (Fig. 10) 0.85 times as long as pronotum, with very dense and moderately fine punctation; posterior margin strongly sinuate near postero-lateral angles. Hind wings present. Legs long and slender; metatibia 1.05 mm long; metatarsus approximately as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of metatarsomeres II-IV.

Abdomen slender; punctation dense and fine, denser on anterior than on posterior tergites; tergites III-V with moderately pronounced anterior impressions; posterior margin of tergite VII with palisade fringe.

♂: median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 12-15) large, 0.8 mm long; ventral process deeply bifid apically; internal sac with strongly sclerotized, partly hook-shaped structures apically; paramere 1.5 mm long, apical lobe slender, nearly half as long as basal portion.

♀: unknown.

Comparative notes: Regarding its habitus (slender body with weakly transverse pronotum; long and slender legs and antennae) and the morphology of the aedeagus (ventral process deeply bifid), *O. articollis* is most similar to *O. collaris* SAULCY, 1865 (Middle East: Israel, Iran, South Turkey) and *O. disiuncta* ASSING, 2006 (Middle East: Israel, South Turkey). It is distinguished from both of them by more pro-



Figs 9-15: *Oxypoda articollis* nov.sp.: (9) habitus; (10) forebody; (11) antenna; (12-13) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (14) apical portion of median lobe in lateral view; (15) apical portion of median lobe in ventral view. Scale bars: 9-10: 1.0 mm; 11: 0.5 mm; 12-15: 0.2 mm.

nounced microreticulation on the forebody, distinctly smaller eyes, basally reddish antennae, only very indistinctly bicoloured, much shorter, and less convex (cross-section) elytra, and by a much larger aedeagus with a ventral process and internal structures of different shapes. It additionally differs from these species as follows:

from *O. collaris* by a less slender and less convex (cross-section) pronotum with more convex lateral margins in dorsal view and by a less oblong antennomere XI;

from *O. disiuncta* by reddish maxillary palpi (dark-brown in *O. disiuncta*) and a smaller (in relation to head) and less convex (cross-section) pronotum.

For descriptions and illustrations of *O. collaris* and *O. disiuncta* see ASSING (2006).

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated to the west of Telavi in eastern Georgia. The holotype was sifted from leaf litter in a beech forest at an altitude of approximately 1090 m.

***Oxypoda (Deropoda) levipunctata nov.sp.* (Figs 16-21, 23)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "ARMENIA [21] - N Sisian, near Mt. Tsugh, 39°41'10"N, 46°03'13"E, 3300 m, near snow, 4.VII.2016, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda levipunctata* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss).

Etymology: The specific epithet is composed of the Latin adjectives *levis* (smooth) and *punctata*. It alludes to the punctation of the forebody, one of the external characters separating this species from the similar, but more coarsely punctate *O. mutata* SHARP, 1871.

Description: Body length 3.2 mm; length of forebody 1.4 mm. Coloration: body reddish-brown with the head, tergite VI, and the anterior portion of tergite VII slightly darker; legs, antennae, and maxillary palpi pale-brown.

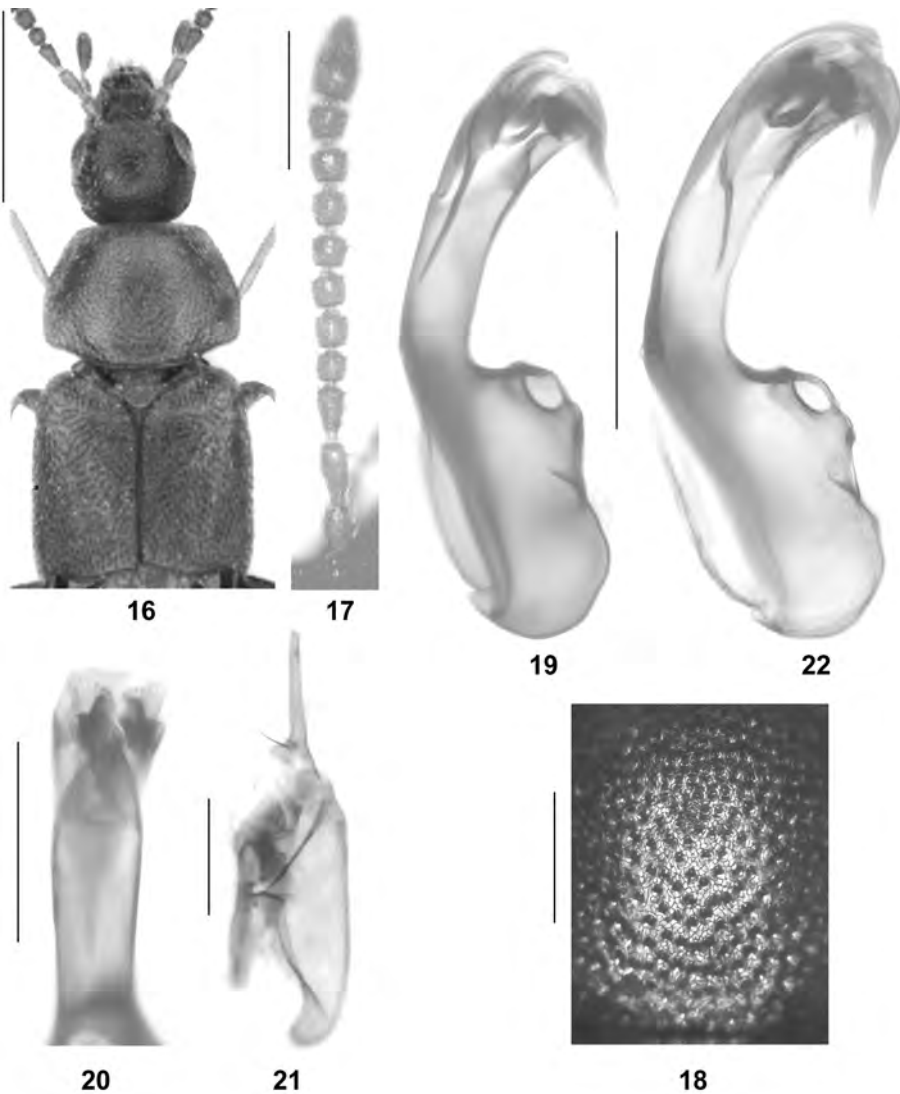
Head (Fig. 16) approximately as long as broad; punctation dense, moderately coarse, and shallow. Eyes slightly longer than postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna (Fig. 17) 0.8 mm long and rather slender; antennomeres IV-V indistinctly transverse, VI-X weakly transverse, X distinctly less than 1.5 times as broad as long, and XI slightly longer than the combined length of IX and X. Maxillary palpus moderately slender; palpomere III approximately three times as long as broad.

Pronotum (Fig. 16) approximately 1.4 times as broad as long and 1.55 times as broad as head, broadest near posterior angles; punctation (Fig. 18) dense and slightly asperate.

Elytra (Fig. 16) 1.07 times as long as pronotum, with dense and weakly granulose punctation; posterior margin weakly sinuate near postero-lateral angles. Hind wings present. Legs moderately slender; metatibia 0.42 mm long; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of metatarsomeres II-IV.

Abdomen with segments III-VI of subequal width; punctation dense on tergites III-VI, distinctly less dense on tergites VII and VIII; interstices without appreciable microsculpture.

♂: sternite VIII convexly produced posteriorly; median lobe of aedeagus 0.53 mm long and shaped as in Figs 19-20; paramere (Fig. 21) approximately 0.7 mm long, apical lobe slender, more than half as long as basal portion, basally with a conspicuous process of triangular shape.



Figs 16-22: *Oxyroda levipunctata* nov.sp. (16-21) and *O. mutata* from South Germany (22): (16) forebody; (17) antenna; (18) postero-median portion of pronotum; (19, 22) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (20) apical portion of median lobe in ventral view; (21) paramere. Scale bars: 16: 0.5 mm; 17, 19-22: 0.2 mm; 18: 0.1 mm.



Fig. 23: Type locality of *Oxypoda levipunctata* nov.sp.

♀: unknown.

Comparative notes: Based on the similar external appearance and on the similar general structure of the aedeagus (shape and internal structures of median lobe; apical lobe of paramere basally with a conspicuous projection), *O. levipunctata* is closely allied to the widespread *O. mutata*, from which it differs primarily by distinctly more slender antennae with less transverse antennomeres IV-X (*O. mutata*: antennae shorter; antennomeres IV-X distinctly transverse, X 1.5 times as broad as long), less dense and less coarse punctation of the forebody, particularly of the pronotum, by the shape of the apex of the ventral process of the aedeagus, and by the shape of the basal process of the apical lobe of the paramere. For comparison, the median lobe of the aedeagus of a male from Germany is illustrated in Fig. 22. For an overview and a catalogue of the previously known species of the subgenus *Deropoda* BERNHAUER, 1902 see ASSING (2012).

Distribution and natural history: *Oxypoda levipunctata* is the easternmost representative of the subgenus *Deropoda*. The holotype was collected in a mountain range to the north of Sisian (near Mt. Tsugh) by sifting debris and roots near large snowfields at an altitude of 3300 m (Fig. 23).

***Oxypoda (Thliboptera) infissoides* nov.sp.** (Figs 24-33)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "ARMENIA [39]- 25 km SW Kapan, 39°04'01"N, 46°16'10"E, 2150 m, near stream, sifted, 10.VII.2016, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda infissoides* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss). Paratypes: 49♂♂, 46♀♀: same data as holotype (MHNG, MNB, OÖLL, cFel, cAss); 25 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 2♂♂, 5♀♀: "ARMENIA [12] - 40 km NW Sisian, Vorotan P., 39°42'36"N, 45°40'30"E, 1960 m, dry oak forest,

30.VI.2016, V. Assing" (cAss); 2♂♂, 3♀♀: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 1♂, 1♀: "ARMENIA [AR16-09] S Martuni, Sulema Pass, 39°57'58"N, 45°14'13"E, 2340 m, slope with small stream and scattered bushes, litter and roots sifted, 29.VI.2016, leg. M. Schülke" (MNB, cAss); 1♀: "ARMENIA [13]- 20 km S Sisian, Dastakert, 39°21'50"N, 46°01'27"E, 2080 m, bushes sifted, 1.VII.2016, V. Assing" (cAss); 1♂: "ARMENIA [11b]- 50 km NW Sisian, Jermuk, 39°50'02"N, 45°40'21"E, 2110 m, oak forest, 12.VII.2016, V. Assing" (cAss); 1♂: "ARMENIA [AR16-22] 20 km W Goris [recte: 20 km SSE Goris], Shurnukh, 39°21'38"N, 46°24'33"E, 1720 m, Quercus and Carpinus forest, litter and dead wood sifted, 5.VII.2016, Schülke" (MNB).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (adjective) alludes to the similarity of the aedeagus of this species to that of *O. infissa* ASSING, 2016.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 3.5-4.6 mm; length of forebody 1.7-2.0 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 24. Coloration: head and pronotum blackish; pronotum and elytra blackish-brown; legs pale-brown; antennae brown with the basal 2-3 antennomeres more or less distinctly paler; maxillary palpi brown.

Head (Fig. 25) approximately as broad as long; punctation fine and dense; interstices with shallow microreticulation. Eyes as long as, or slightly shorter than postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna (Fig. 26) approximately 1.1 mm long and rather slender; antennomeres IV weakly oblong or as long as broad, V as long as broad or weakly transverse, VI-IX weakly transverse, X approximately as long as broad, and XI slightly longer than the combined length of IX and X. Maxillary palpus moderately slender; palpomere III 3.0-3.5 times as long as broad.

Pronotum (Fig. 26) approximately 1.25 times as broad as long and 1.55-1.60 times as broad as head, broadest near the convex and nearly obsolete posterior angles; punctation and microreticulation similar to those of head.

Elytra (Fig. 25) 0.90-0.95 times as long as pronotum; punctation very dense, more distinct than that of head and pronotum; interstices with shallow microsculpture; posterior margin strongly sinuate near postero-lateral angles. Hind wings present. Legs moderately slender; metatibia 0.53-0.60 mm long; metatarsus nearly as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of metatarsomeres II-IV.

Abdomen (Fig. 27) with segments III-VI of subequal width; punctation very dense on tergite III, gradually decreasing in density from tergite III to tergite VIII; interstices glossy; microsculpture nearly obsolete, traces of microreticulation visible only at high magnification.

♂: sternite VIII with convex posterior margin; median lobe of aedeagus (Fig. 25) 0.53-0.60 mm long and shaped as in Figs 28-30, ventral process apically undivided; paramere (Fig. 31) approximately 0.85 mm long, apical lobe slender, slightly less than half as long as basal portion.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII broadly convex; spermatheca of variable shape and not distinctive (Figs 32-33).

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : Regarding the morphology of the median lobe of the aedeagus, *O. infissoides* is most similar to *O. infissa*, a species currently known only from Ossa Oros, Greece, It is distinguished from *O. infissa* by slightly larger body size and especially by the morphology of the antennae (*O. infissa*: antenna shorter and less massive; antennomeres V-X distinctly transverse; antennomere X approximately 1.5 times as broad as long) and by the morphology of the aedeagus (*O. infissa*: median lobe approximately 0.50 mm long; apical portion of ventral process shorter). From the sympatric *O. recta*, *O. infissoides* differs by longer elytra (*O. recta*: elytra approximately 0.75 times as long as pronotum), by the punctation of the abdomen (*O. recta*: tergites III-

VI with similarly dense punctation), by the shape of the male sternite VIII (*O. recta*: posterior margin less strongly concave), and by the morphology of the aedeagus (*O. recta*: median lobe larger and of different shape; apical lobe longer, more than half as long as basal portion). For illustrations of *O. infissa*, *O. recta*, and other *Thliboptera* species from Turkey and other geographically close regions see ASSING (2004, 2006, 2012). A catalogue of the previously known *Thliboptera* species is provided by ASSING (2012).

Distribution and natural history: *Oxypoda infissoides* is currently known from several localities in South Armenia. The specimens were collected by sifting leaf litter in oak forests and beneath bushes at altitudes between 1720 and 2340 m. The vast majority of specimens was sifted from litter near a stream at an elevation of 2150 m. Part of the material is slightly teneral.

***Oxypoda (Bessopora) grandicristata nov.sp.* (Figs 34-43)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "ARMENIA [11]- 50 km NW Sisian, Jermuk, 39°50'02"N, 45°40'21"E, 2110 m, oak forest, 30.VI.2016, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Oxypoda grandicristata* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss). Paratypes: 4♂♂, 6♀♀: same data as holotype (cAss); 3 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 2♂♂, 1♀: same data as holotype, but "[11a] ... 3.VII.2016" (cAss); 8 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 3♂♂: same data as holotype, but "[11b] ... 12.VII.2016" (cAss); 1 ex.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB).

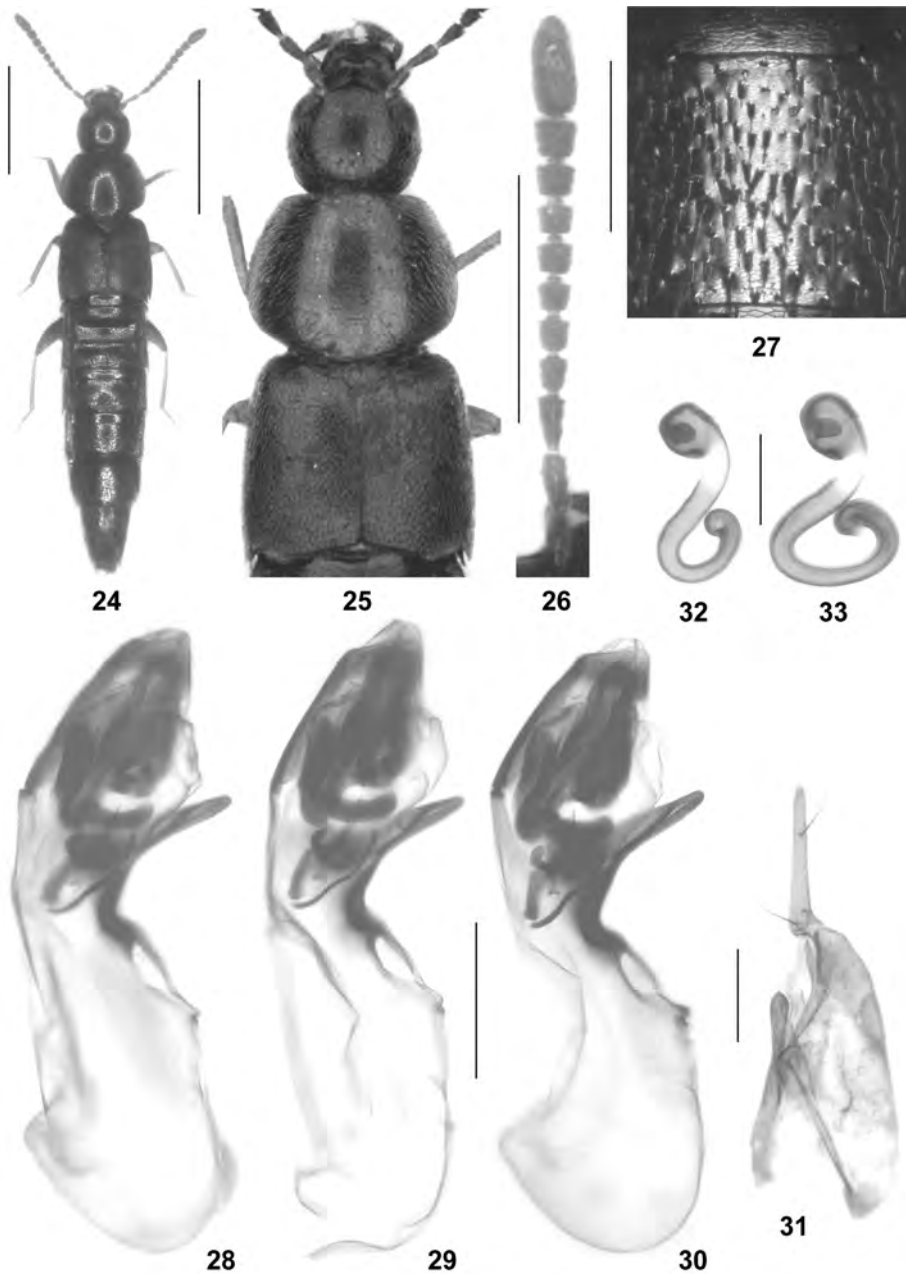
Etymology: The specific epithet (adjective) alludes to the pronounced crista apicalis of the aedeagus.

Description: Body length 2.8-3.5 mm; length of forebody 1.3-1.5 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 34. Coloration: body more or less uniformly brown to dark-brown; legs reddish; antennae brown, with the basal 2-4 antennomeres usually more or less distinctly paler; maxillary palpi reddish with palpomere III brown.

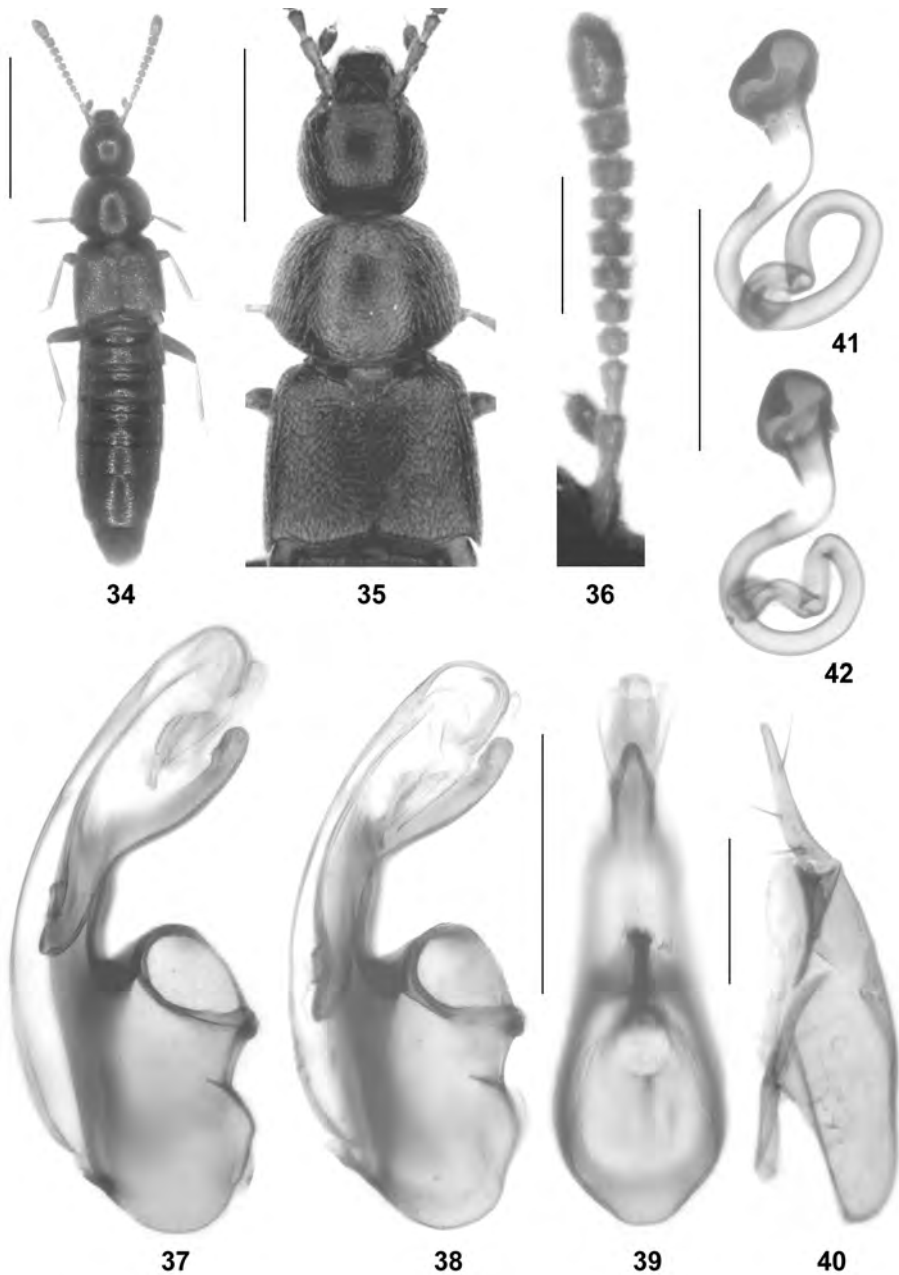
Head (Fig. 35) approximately as broad as long; punctation dense and distinct; interstices with shallow microreticulation. Eyes small, approximately half as long as postocular region in dorsal view and not protruding from lateral contours of head. Antenna (Fig. 36) 0.8-0.9 mm long and distinctly incrassate apically; antennomeres IV weakly transverse, V-IX distinctly transverse and more than 1.5 times as broad as long, X 1.5 times as long as IX and barely 1.5 times as broad as long, and XI oval, less than twice as long as broad and approximately as long as the combined length of IX and X. Maxillary palpomere III stout, less than three times as long as broad.

Pronotum (Fig. 35) rather strongly convex in cross-section, approximately 1.2 times as broad as long and 1.4 times as broad as head, broadest behind middle; punctation dense and rather fine; interstices with shallow microreticulation.

Elytra (Fig. 35) rather short, 0.80-0.85 times as long as pronotum; punctation very dense, more distinct than that of head and pronotum; interstices with shallow microsculpture; posterior margin moderately sinuate near postero-lateral angles. Hind wings completely reduced. Legs moderately slender; metatibia approximately 0.4 mm long; metatarsus nearly as long as metatibia; metatarsomere I approximately as long as the combined length of metatarsomeres II-IV.



Figs 24-33: *Oxypoda infissoides* nov.sp.: (24) habitus; (25) forebody; (26) antenna; (27) median portion of abdominal tergite VI; (28-30) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (31) paramere; (32-33) spermatheca. Scale bars: 24: 1.0 mm; 25-26: 0.5 mm; 27-31: 0.2 mm; 32-33: 0.1 mm.



Figs 34-42: *Oxypoda grandicristata* nov.sp.: (34) habitus; (35) forebody; (36) antenna; (37-39) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; (40) paramere; (41-42) spermatheca. Scale bars: 34: 1.0 mm; 35: 0.5 mm; 36-42: 0.2 mm.



Figs 43: Type locality of *Oxypoda grandicristata* nov.sp.

Abdomen with segments III-VI of subequal width, segments VII and VIII weakly tapering posteriad; punctation distinct, very dense on tergites III-VI, somewhat less dense on tergites VII and VIII; interstices without microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII with rudiment of a palisade fringe.

♂: sternite VIII with convex posterior margin; median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 37-39) 0.37-0.39 mm long and of conspicuous shape; ventral process strongly arched in lateral view, apex undivided and very slender in ventral view; crista apicalis enormous; paramere (Fig. 40) much longer than median lobe, approximately 0.7 mm long, apical lobe slender and long, but less than half as long as basal portion.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII weakly convex, in the middle truncate or weakly concave, with long marginal setae; spermatheca (Figs 41-42) of somewhat variable shape.

Comparative notes: Representatives of the subgenus *Bessopora* THOMSON, 1859 were previously unknown from Armenia. *Oxypoda grandicristata* is distinguished from nearly all of the widespread representatives of this subgenus by the short elytra and the absence of fully developed hind wings and from all its congeners by the conspicuous morphology of the median lobe of the aedeagus. The shape of the median lobe somewhat resembles that of *O. recondita* KRAATZ, 1856, which is listed in the subgenus *Baeoglana* THOMSON, 1867 in SCHÜLKE & SMETANA (2015). This subgeneric assignment is clearly erroneous and based on a homoplasy (elongate maxillary palpomere III); other external characters and the morphology of the aedeagus suggest that *O. recondita* belongs to *Bessopora*. Aside from the short elytra and the absence of hind wings, the new species differs from *O. recondita* by darker coloration, more distinct punctation of the whole body, shorter antennae with more transverse antennomeres V-IX, the shape of the male

sternite VIII (*O. recondita*: posteriorly distinctly pointed), and the morphology of the aedeagus (median lobe smaller; ventral process more strongly arched in lateral view and with more slender apex in ventral view; crista apicalis larger; paramere with longer and basally not distinctly dilated apical lobe).

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated near Jermuk in southern Armenia at an altitude of approximately 2100 m. The reduced hind wings suggest that the distribution of *O. grandicristata* is probably restricted. The specimens were sifted from leaf litter in, and at the margin of, an oak forest (Fig. 43).

***Oxyroda (Sphenoma) subplicata* nov.sp.** (Figs 44-51)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "ARMENIA [30] - 25 km S Kapan, Gomarants Ps., 39°01'32"N, 46°21'59"E, 2190 m, oak forest, 7.VII.2016, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Oxyroda subplicata* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2016" (cAss). Paratypes: 39♂♂, 34♀♀: same data as holotype (cAss, MHNG, MNB); 26 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 27♂♂, 29♀♀: "ARMENIA [31] - 25 km S Kapan, Gomarants Ps., 39°02'15"N, 46°22'13"E, 2050 m, oak forest, 7.VII.2016, V. Assing" (cAss, MHNG, MNB, NHMW); 17 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB); 32♂♂, 23♀♀: "ARMENIA [33] - WSW Kapan, S Meghri Pass, 39°05'56"N, 46°09'47"E, 2090 m, stream valley, 8.VII.2016, V. Assing" (cAss, MHNG, MNB, NHMW, OÖLL); 33 exs.: same data, but leg. Schülke (MNB).

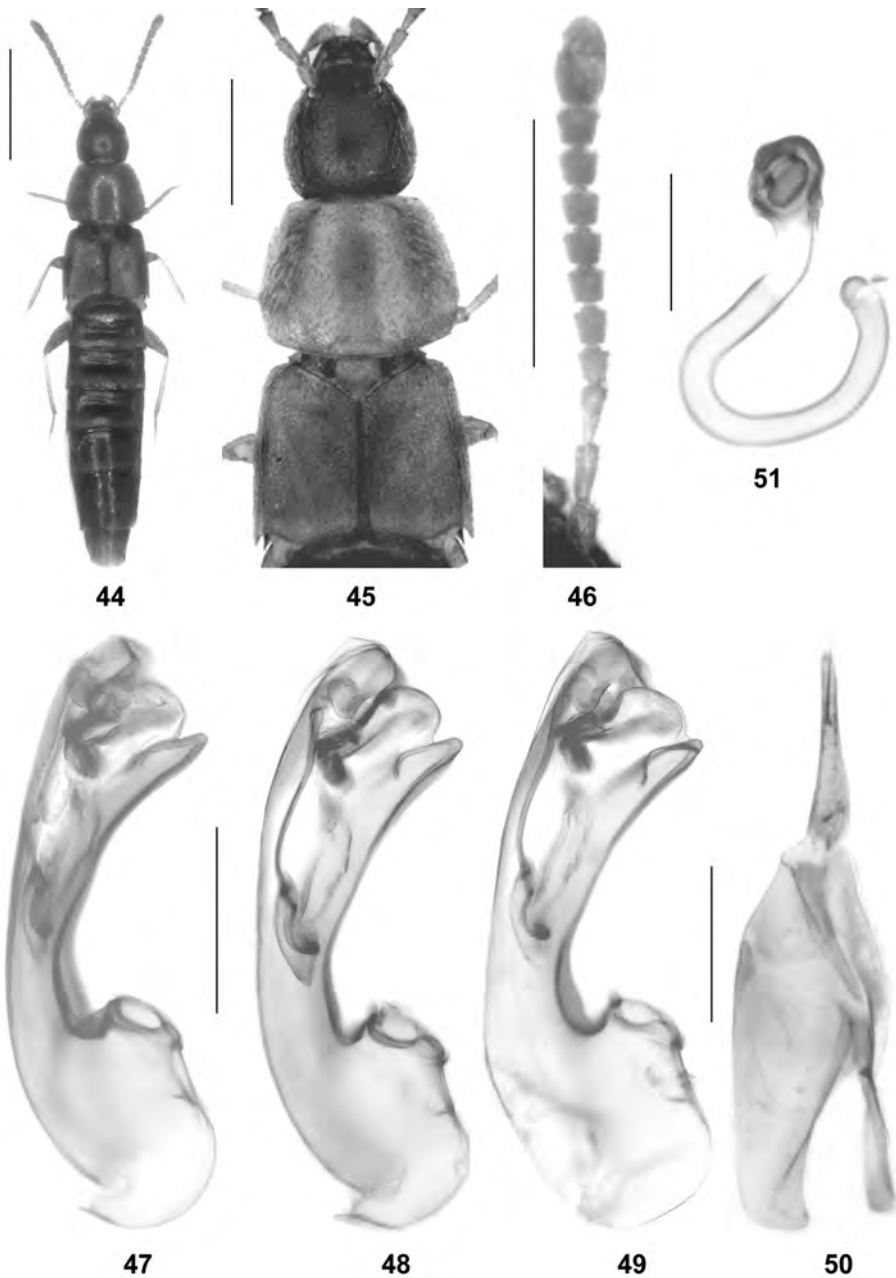
Etymology: The specific epithet (adjective) alludes to the weakly pronounced lateral carinae on the ventral process of the aedeagus, the most evident character distinguishing this species from the similar *O. complicata* ASSING, 2011.

Description: Body length 3.6-4.7 mm; length of forebody 1.7-2.0 mm. External characters (Figs 44-46) as in *O. complicata* and other species allied to *O. abdominalis* (MANNERHEIM, 1830).

♂: sternite VIII acutely produced posteriorly; median lobe of aedeagus (Figs 47-49) 0.52-0.54 mm long; ventral process laterally with indistinct carinae (best visible in lateral view), with rather large, but acute apex (lateral view); crista apicalis small; paramere (Fig. 50) approximately 0.75 mm long, apical lobe long and slender, approximately half as long as basal portion of paramere.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII weakly concave in the middle; spermatheca (Fig. 51) not distinctive.

Comparative notes: As can be inferred from the similar external appearance (body shape, punctation, long legs, apically weakly incrassate antennae) and the similar sexual characters (shape and internal structures of the median lobe of the aedeagus; shape of the spermatheca), *O. subplicata* is closely related to *O. abdominalis* and its allies, which are reliably distinguished only based on the shape of the median lobe of the aedeagus. Aside from the widespread *O. abdominalis*, the geographically close representatives of this group in the Middle East and Middle Asia are *O. ziyaretica* ASSING, 2006 (central southern Anatolia), *O. robustior* ASSING, 2009 (Iran), *O. kirgisisca* ASSING, 2009 (Kyrgyzstan), *O. ludgeri* ASSING, 2012 (Kyrgyzstan), and *O. complicata* ASSING, 2011 (Iran: Azarbayjan-e Gharbi; East Turkey: Erzurum). The aedeagus of the new species is most similar to that of *O. complicata*, but differs by the weakly pronounced carinae on the ventral process of the aedeagus. In other respects, both species are extremely similar. Based on the currently available material, this difference is constant. From the sympatric *O. abdominalis*, *O. subplicata* is distinguished particularly



Figs 44-51: *Oxypoda subplicata* nov.sp.: (44) habitus; (45) forebody; (46) antenna; (47-49) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (50) paramere; (51) spermatheca. Scale bars: 44: 1.0 mm; 45-46: 0.5 mm; 47-50: 0.2 mm; 51: 0.1 mm.

by the much stouter apex of the ventral process of the aedeagus. For illustrations of the aedeagi of *O. complicata* and other species of the *O. abdominalis* group see ASSING (2006, 2009, 2011, 2012).

Distribution and natural history: The type specimens were collected in three localities to the south and southwest of Kapan, South Armenia, by sifting moist leaf litter and debris in oak forests and along a stream at altitudes of 2050-2190 m. Part of the material is teneral.

Acknowledgements

My thanks are extended to Mark Kalashian and Gayane Karagyan (both Yerevan) for the assistance in organizing the field trip to Armenia (including a collecting permit). In particular, I am indebted to Andreas Pütz (Eisenhüttenstadt) for the generous gift of the holotype of *Oxypoda artcollis*.

Zusammenfassung

Sechs Arten der Gattung *Oxypoda* MANNERHEIM, 1830 aus Armenien und Georgien werden beschrieben und abgebildet: *Oxypoda (Oxypoda) flexa* nov.sp. (Armenien), *O. (O.) artcollis* nov.sp. (Georgien), *O. (Deropoda) levipunctata* nov.sp. (Armenien), *O. (Thliboptera) infissoides* nov.sp. (Armenien), *O. (Bessopora) grandicristata* nov.sp. (Armenien) und *O. (Sphenoma) subplicata* nov.sp. (Armenien). *Oxypoda recondita* KRAATZ, 1856, bisher in der Untergattung *Baeoglena* THOMSON, 1867, wird in das Subgenus *Bessopora* THOMSON, 1859 gestellt.

References

- ASSING V. (2004): New species and records of Staphylinidae from Turkey III (Insecta: Coleoptera). — Linzer Biologische Beiträge **36** (2): 669-733.
- ASSING V. (2006): On some species of *Oxypoda* MANNERHEIM from Turkey and adjacent regions (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae). — Linzer Biologische Beiträge **38** (1): 277-331.
- ASSING V. (2009): On some *Oxypoda* species of the subgenus *Sphenoma* MANNERHEIM (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). — Linzer Biologische Beiträge **41** (2): 1307-1315.
- ASSING V. (2011): On the Staphylinidae (Coleoptera) of Iran. II. New species and additional records, with special reference to the Paederinae, Xantholinini, and Aleocharinae. — Stuttgarter Beiträge zur Naturkunde Serie A, Neue Serie **4**: 137-183.
- ASSING V. (2012): On the taxonomy and zoogeography of some *Oxypoda* species of the West Palearctic region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae). — Linzer Biologische Beiträge **44** (1): 365-399.
- SCHÜLKE M. & A. SMETANA (2015): Staphylinidae, pp. 304-1134. — In: LÖBL I. & D. LÖBL (eds), Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera. Volume 2. Hydrophiloidea – Staphyloidea. Revised and updated edition. Leiden: Brill: xxvi + 1702 pp.

Author's address: Dr. Volker ASSING
Gabelsbergerstr. 2
D-30163 Hannover, Germany
E-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de