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**A new species of *Stenus* from Syria and additional records of the  
genus from the Middle East  
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Steninae)**

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**A b s t r a c t :** *Stenus scoupyi* nov.sp. (West Syria) is described and illustrated. The male sexual characters of *S. aequus* PUTHZ, 1977 and *Stenus rutilans* SAULCY, 1865 are illustrated for the first time. Additional records from the Middle East are provided.

**K e y w o r d s :** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Steninae, *Palaearctic* region, Middle East, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, new species, new records

**Introduction**

The Mediterranean and adjacent regions host a remarkable number of *Stenus* species of the *ochropus-ludyi-coarcticollis* group (PUTHZ 1971, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 2008; characterization of the species group in PUTHZ (1971)). Most of the species of this group are micropterous and have restricted distributions. Four micropterous species have been described from the East Mediterranean: *S. biblicus* PUTHZ, 1971 (northern Israel); *S. aequus* PUTHZ, 1977 (central Lebanon); *S. cilicianus* ASSING, 2003 (central southern Turkey: environs of Alanya); *S. nurdaghensis* ASSING, 2003 (central southern Turkey: Hatay).

Material made available to me by Christoph Reuter (Hamburg) and Vladimir Scoupy (Kamenné Žehrovice) from the Middle East (Lebanon, Syria) in the last years included two micropterous *Stenus* species of the *ochropus-ludyi-coarcticollis* group. An examination of the material revealed that the specimens from Syria belong to an undescribed species.

**Material and methods**

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

TAU ..... National Collection of Insects, Tel Aviv University (A.L.L. Friedman)  
SMNS..... Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart (coll. Puthz; A. Faille)  
cAss..... private collection Volker Assing, Hannover  
cFel ..... author's private collection  
cSco..... private collection Vladimir Scoupy, Kamenné Žehrovice

The morphological studies were conducted using a Nikon SMZ 1270 microscope and a

Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using a digital camera (ToupCam U3CMOS16000KPA) and Picolay software.

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the mandibles (in resting position) to the posterior margin of the abdominal segment VIII, the length of the forebody from the anterior margin of the mandibles to the posterior margin of the elytra (at the suture), head length from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior margin of the head, the length of the pronotum along the middle, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra (at the sutural angles), and the length of the aedeagus from the apex to the base of the aedeagal 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.

## Results

### *Stenus scoupyi* nov.sp. (Figs 1-6)

**Type material:** Holotype ♂: "Syr. 25.5.2002 Slunfeh, Jabal al Musaryah [35°35'04'' N, 36°13'06'' E], Scoupy leg. / *Stenus aequus* Puthz, det V. Puthz 2007 / coll. Puthz / Holotypus ♂ *Stenus scoupyi* sp.n. det. B. Feldmann 2020" (SMNS). Paratypes: 3 ♂♂ (1 ♂ with lost aedeagus), 3 ♀♀: same data as holotype (cSco, cFel).

**Etymology:** This species is dedicated to Vladimir Scoupy, who collected the type series.

**Description:** Body length 3.25-3.65 mm; length of forebody 1.5-1.7 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. In external appearance very similar to *S. nurdaghensis*.

Head 1.27-1.34 times as wide as pronotum; with distinct lateral furrows, median elevation relatively flat; laterally with coarse and dense, median elevation with distinctly sparser punctation; interstices shining, without microsculpture.

Pronotum 0.95-1.09 times as wide as long, without impression along midline; punctation coarse and dense; microsculpture absent.

Elytra 1.21-1.30 times as wide and 0.87-0.94 times as long as pronotum, distinctly dilated posteriad; humeral angles almost obsolete; with more or less pronounced impressions near postero-lateral angles; punctation similar to that of pronotum; interstices without microsculpture.

Abdomen with relatively broad paratergites; punctation relatively dense and coarse; microsculpture on tergite III and IV more or less shallow, posterior tergites with distinct microsculpture; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

♂: sternite VIII posteriorly with relatively small U-shaped posterior emargination; sternite IX as in Fig. 4; aedeagus (Figs 2-3) about 0.48 mm long, with relatively pronounced apico-lateral angle.

♀: valvifer and spermatheca as in Figs 5-6.

**Comparative notes:** Based on the similar external characters and on the similar general morphology of the aedeagus, *Stenus scoupyi* is closely allied to the geographically close *S. cilicianus*, *S. nurdaghensis*, *S. aequus*, and *S. biblicus*.

A reliable identification of these species is often possible only based on the male primary sexual characters, owing to the pronounced intra- combined with little interspecific

variation of external characters (punctuation, microsculpture). Based on external characters, the new species is distinguished as follows:

from *S. cilicianus* by denser punctuation and microsculpture, and consequently less shine of the abdominal tergites;

from *S. aequus* by the lack of microsculpture on the pronotum and elytra (distinct to very weak in *S. aequus*);

from *S. biblicus* by distinctly finer and denser punctuation, and more distinctly microsculptured abdominal tergites.

External characters distinguishing the new species from *S. nurdaghensis* were not found.

**Distribution and natural history:** *Stenus scoupyi* was collected near Slunfeh in West Syria. The specimens were sifted from litter in a forest on limestone at altitudes of approximately 1450 m (V. Scoupy pers. comm.).

### ***Stenus aequus* PUTHZ, 1977 (Figs 7-8)**

**Type material examined:** Paratype ♀: "Liban, 28.III.75, env. Damour, Besuchet / Paratypus ♀ / *Stenus aequus* n.sp. det. V. Puthz 1976 / coll. Puthz" (SMNS).

**Material examined:** LEBANON: 1♀, Rayfoun, ca. 33°58'N, 35°42'E, ~ 990 m, mixed oak forest, pitfall trap, 15.III.2013, leg. Reuter (cFel); 1♂, 1♀, same data, but 13.III-15.IV.2013 (cFel, SMNS); 2♂♂, same data, but 3-20.XI.2013 (cFel, cAss); 1♂, same data, but III.2014 (cFel); 1♂, same data, but IV.2015 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 14.II.-31.III.2016 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 24.I.-18.II.2017 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 28.II.-5.III.2017 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 18-30.III.2017 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 14-30.IV.2017 (cAss); 1♀, same data, but 18.XII.2017-11.I.2018 (cFel); 1♂, 1♀, same data, but 11-23.I.2018 (cFel); ♂, 1♀, same data, but 11-28.II.2018 (cFel); 1♀, same data, but 20.III.-20.IV.2018 (cFel); 2♀♀, same data, but XI.2018 (cFel, cAss); 1♂, Rachaya, Tannoura, ca. 33°29'N, 35°48'E, 900 m, oak forest, V.2016, leg. Reuter (cFel).

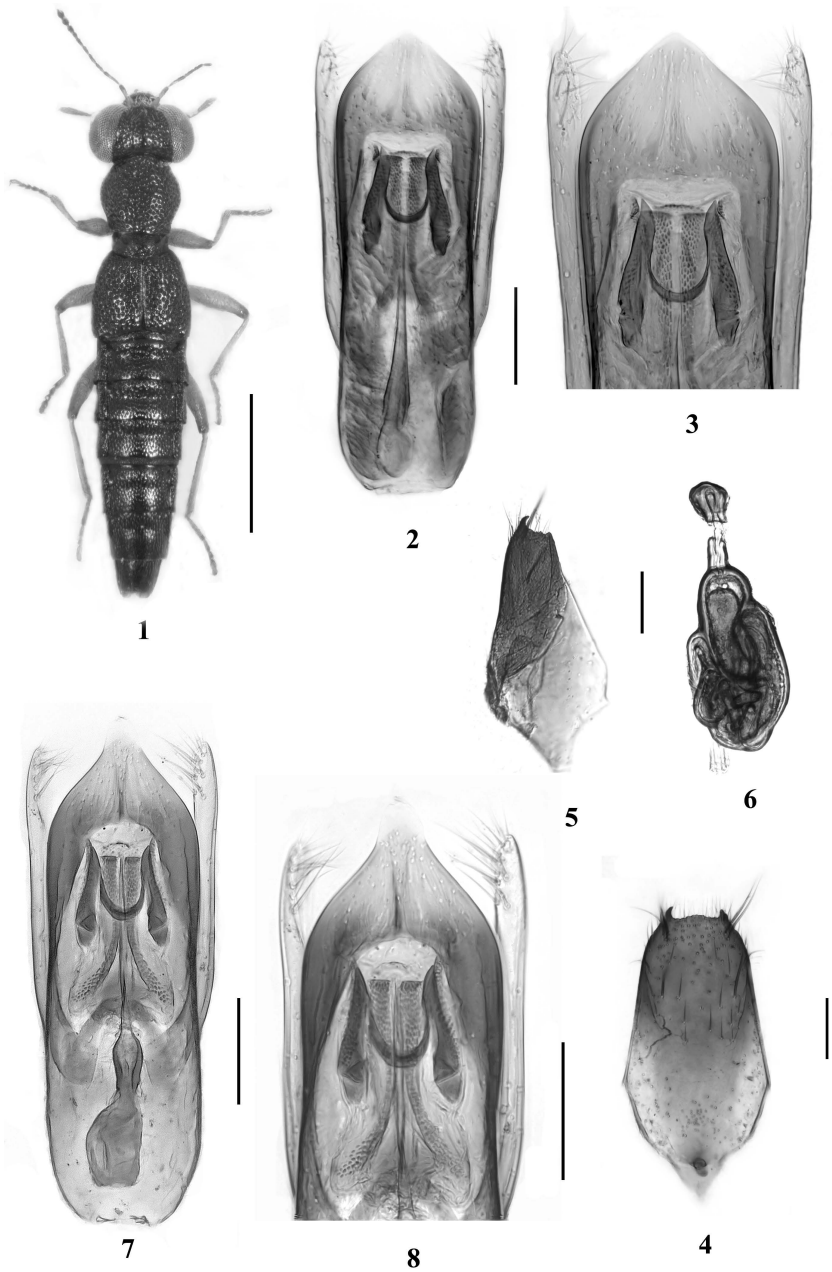
The original description of *S. aequus* is based on three female type specimens from the area south of Beirut, Lebanon (PUTHZ 1977). Up to today, no additional records have been reported. In the material from Raifoun (in all about 20 specimens) the variation of the punctuation and particularly of the microsculpture of the pronotum and elytra is pronounced.

The previously unknown male primary sexual characters are illustrated in Figs 7-8. The spermatheca is figured by ASSING (2003: figure 18).

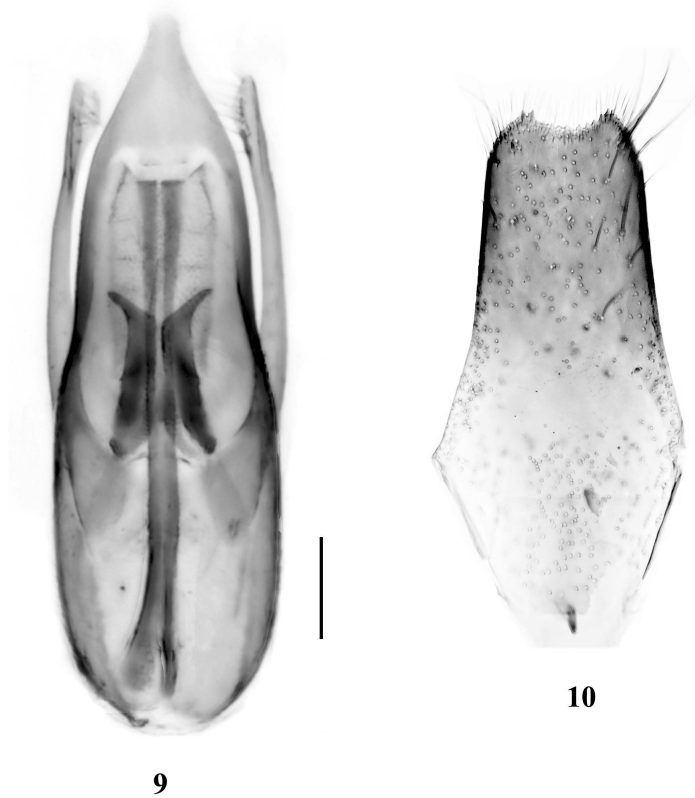
### ***Stenus biblicus* PUTHZ, 1971**

**Material examined:** ISRAEL: 1♂, 1♀ (det. Puthz), Majdal Shams, light trap, 15.VII.2002, leg. Kravchenko & Chikatunov (TAU, SMNS).

This species was previously known only from the type localities in North Israel (PUTHZ 1971). Additional records have not been reported (HERMAN 2001).



**Figs 1-8:** *Stenus scoupyi* (1-6) and *S. aequus* (7-8): (1) habitus; (2-3, 7-8) aedeagus in dorsal view; (4) male sternite IX; (5) valvifer; (6) spermatheca. Scale bars: 1: 1.0 mm; 2-8: 0.1 mm.



**Figs 9-10:** *Stenus rutilans*: (9) aedeagus in dorsal view; (10) apical part of male sternite IX. Scale bars: 0.1 mm.

***Stenus clainpanaini* BERNHAUER, 1912**

**Material examined:** LEBANON: 3 exs., Rayfoun, ca. 33°58'N, 35°42'E, ~990 m, mixed oak forest, pitfall trap, 30.III.-15.IV.2013, leg. Reuter (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but III.2014 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but III.2014 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 28.III.-29.IV.2014 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but III.2014 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but III.2015 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but 14.II.-23.III.2016 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 24-31.III.2016 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 31.III.-9.IV.2016 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 22.IV.-10.V.2016 (cFel); 4 exs., same data, but 24.I.-18.II.2017 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 18-28.II.2017 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but 28.II.-5.III.2017 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 14-30.IV.2017 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but 9-18.XII.2017 (cFel); 3 exs., same data, but 18.XII.2017-11.I.2018 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 11-23.I.2018 (cFel); 4 exs., same data, but 11-28.II.2018 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but 20.III.-20.IV.2018 (cFel); 1 ex., same data, but XI.2018 (cFel); 2 exs., same data, but 3-14.XII.2018 (cFel); 2 exs., Rachaya, Tannoura, ca. 33°29'N, 35°48'E, 900 m, oak forest, V.2016, leg. Reuter (cFel).

Described based on a unique female from the environs of Beirut (BERNHAUER 1912), this species was previously known only from Lebanon (HERMAN 2001, SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015). Previously, only one subsequent record had been reported (FAGEL 1968).

***Stenus rutilans* SAULCY, 1865 (Figs 9-10)**

**M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d :** ISRAEL: 1♀ (det. Puthz), Lehavim, 25.III.2005, leg. Shelef & Chikatunov (TAU). LEBANON: 1♂, 1♀, Rayfoun, ca. 33°58'N, 35°42'E, ~ 990 m, mixed oak forest, pitfall trap, 9-12.IV.2016, leg. Reuter (cFel).

The original description of *S. rutilans* is based on two female type specimens from Jerusalem (Israel) and Amman (Jordan) (SAULCY 1865). Previously a synonym of *S. cyaneus* BAUDI DI SELVE, 1848, PUTHZ (2008) revalidated the taxon and illustrated the female primary and secondary sexual characters (figures 42-43). The previously unknown male primary and secondary sexual characters are illustrated in Figs 9-10.

The species, which had been reported from Israel, Jordan and Egypt (SAULCY 1865, PUTHZ 2008), is recorded from Lebanon for the first time.

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**Zusammenfassung**

*Stenus scoupyi* nov.sp. (West-Syrien) wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Die männlichen Geschlechtsmerkmale von *S. aequus* PUTHZ, 1977 und *S. rutilans* SAULCY, 1865 werden zum ersten Mal abgebildet. Weitere Funde aus dem Nahen Osten werden mitgeteilt.

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