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# The *Afropselaphus* fauna of South Turkey and the Middle East (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae)

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A b s t r a c t : Only a single named species of *Afropselaphus* JEANNEL, 1950, *A. clavigeroides* (REITTER, 1882) from Lebanon, was previously known from the region comprising South Turkey and the Middle East. Based on a study of material collected since the 1980s, 18 additional species are described and illustrated, all of them micropterous and locally endemic: *Afropselaphus muglanus* nov.sp. (Southwest Turkey: Muğla); *A. pisidicus* nov.sp. (Southwest Turkey: western Antalya); *A. wolfi* nov.sp. (South Turkey: eastern Antalya); *A. sinuatus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: eastern Antalya); *A. tenuispinosus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: northern Antalya); *A. frederici* nov.sp. (South Turkey: western Mersin); *A. cilicicus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Mersin); *A. adanicus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Adana); *A. longispinosus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye); *A. spoliatus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Osmaniye); *A. latibasalis* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Osmaniye); *A. trispinosus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Osmaniye); *A. kizilicus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Hatay); *A. bispinosus* nov.sp. (South Turkey: Hatay); *A. meybohmi* nov.sp. (Jordan); *A. inaequalis* nov.sp. (North Israel: Upper Galilee); *A. aequalis* nov.sp. (North Israel: Upper Galilee); *A. assmanni* nov.sp. (North Israel: Upper Galilee). All the species are assigned to the newly established *A. clavigeroides* group, which additionally includes four species from Crete. A catalogue of the *Afropselaphus* species represented in South Turkey and the Middle East is provided; their distributions are mapped. The genus now includes a total of 45 species distributed in the West Palaearctic region eastwards to Uzbekistan.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Pselaphinae, *Afropselaphus*, Turkey, Middle East, taxonomy, new species, new records, catalogue, distribution maps

## Introduction

According to the latest edition of the Palaearctic Catalogue (SCHÜLKE & SMETANA 2015), the genus *Afropselaphus* JEANNEL, 1950 included 23 species distributed in the West Palaearctic region from the Canary Islands and North Africa eastwards to Uzbekistan. Four additional species were recently described from Crete by BRACHAT (2019). The intrageneric phylogenetic affiliations have not been studied comprehensively. However, according to BRACHAT (2019), the four Cretan species are closely allied to *P. clavigeroides* (REITTER, 1882) from the Middle East and several undescribed species from South Turkey. At present, *P. clavigeroides* is the sole described representative of the genus in the region comprising Turkey and the Middle East.

Based on personal observations, *Afropselaphus* species are micropterous and regionally

or locally endemic. They are inhabitants of debris and litter in grass and shrub habitats at a wide range of elevations, from near sea-level to above 1,500 m. They are primarily collected by sifting litter and sometimes also found under stones.

During the past four decades, numerous field trips to various regions of Turkey have been conducted by the authors, Heinrich Meybohm (Großhansdorf), and Michael Schülke (Berlin). Several additional field trips were conducted to Jordan and Israel by Thorsten Aßmann (Lüneburg) and Heinrich Meybohm. Christoph Reuter (Hamburg) collected beetles by pitfall trapping in Lebanon. These field trips yielded a substantial number of *Afropselaphus* specimens belonging to 18 new species distributed across South Turkey, in Israel, and Jordan, all of them closely allied to *A. clavigeroides*.

## Material and methods

The material treated in this study is deposited in the private collection of the first author (cBra) and in Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, coll Schülke (MNB).

The morphological studies were conducted using Stemi SV 6 (Zeiss), Stemi SV 11 (Zeiss), and Discovery V12 (Zeiss) microscopes, and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). The images were created using digital cameras (Axiocam ERc 5s, Nikon Coolpix 995), as well as Labscope and Picolay software. The maps were created using MapCreator 2.0 (primap) software.

Body length was measured from the anterior margin of the frons to the apex of the abdomen. Other measurements are abbreviated as follows:

HL – head length from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior constriction of the head; HW - head with across and including eyes; AL – length of antennae; PpL – length of maxillary palpomere IV; PL – length of pronotum; EL – length of elytra along suture; EW – maximal width of both elytra combined; AedL – length of median lobe of aedeagus.

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. Morphological terminology follows CHANDLER (2001), except for the use of meso- and metaventrite rather than meso- and metasternum.

## Results

Including the 18 new species described in this paper, 19 named species are now known from Turkey and the Middle East, all of them locally endemic. The vast majority (14 species) is distributed in South Turkey, three species are recorded from Israel, one from Jordan, and one from Lebanon.

The record of *A. clavigeroides*, a species originally described from Beirut (Lebanon), from Israel in SCHÜLKE & SMETANA (2015) is probably based on BESUCHET (1960), who reported *A. clavigeroides* from "Galilée". It can be inferred from the results of the present study, however, that this record is most likely based on misidentification. All the species treated in the present study appear to have restricted distributions, with several of them known only from a single locality.

## Catalogue of the species of the *Afropselaphus clavigeroides* group of Turkey and the Middle East

| Species | Distribution |
|---|---|
| *adanicus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Adana: Kozan env. |
| *aequalis* **nov.sp.** | Israel: Upper Galilee |
| *assmanni* **nov.sp.** | Israel: Upper Galilee |
| *bispinosus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Hatay |
| *cilicicus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Mersin: NNW Tarsus |
| *clavigeroides* (REITTER, 1882) | Lebanon |
| *frederici* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: W-Mersin |
| *inaequalis* **nov.sp.** | Israel: Upper Galilee |
| *kizilicus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Hatay: Kızıdağı |
| *latibasalis* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Osmaniye |
| *longispinosus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye |
| *meybohmi* **nov.sp.** | Jordan: Ajlun |
| *muglanus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Muğla: Fethiye env. |
| *pisidicus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: W-Antalya: Termessos |
| *sinuatus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: E-Antalya: Alanya env. |
| *spoliatus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Osmaniye |
| *tenuispinosus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: N-Antalya |
| *trispinosus* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: Osmaniye: Nur Dağları |
| *wolfi* **nov.sp.** | Turkey: E-Antalya |

## Taxonomy

### *Afropselaphus clavigeroides* group

All the species treated in the present study are closely allied to *Afropselaphus clavigeroides* and the four named *Afropselaphus* species from Crete. As can be inferred from the original description of *A. clavigeroides*, which was described based on "ein Exemplar von Beirut" (REITTER 1882), the holotype most likely is a female (short antennomeres; sternite IV unmodified). According to BESUCHET (1960), the holotype is deposited in the natural history museum in Paris. Owing to the current restrictive loan policy of this institution, a revision of the holotype was not possible, so that the present interpretation of *A. clavigeroides* follows BESUCHET (1960), who based his redescription on two males, one from Lebanon and one from Galilee (North Israel), and illustrated the male from Lebanon. It can be inferred from the results of the present study, however, particularly the restricted distributions of the individual species, that the specimen from

North Israel is unlikely to be conspecific with that from Lebanon.

The *A. clavigeroides* group is characterised as follows:

Body (Figs 1, 4) 1.60-2.00 mm long, reddish-yellow to reddish, glossy, and with sparse long suberect setae arranged in series on the elytra and the abdomen.

Head (Figs 1, 4) short, 1.3-1.4 times as long as broad, dorsally with two posteriorly converging carinae; vertex with a deep and broad median impression extending from the pair of distinct tomentose intraocular foveae nearly to the posterior margin of the head. Eyes distinctly convex and composed of 4-8 ommatidia. Antennae long, with mostly oblong antennomeres. Maxillary palpomere IV glossy; apical club at least half as long a total length of palpomere, apically notched and with longitudinal sulcus.

Pronotum (Figs 1, 4) distinctly convex in cross-section, approximately 1.1 times as long as broad, broadest in the middle, and slightly broader than head; lateral margins smoothly convex; basally with two distinct tomentose lateral ante-basal foveae; median ante-basal fovea absent to distinct.

Elytra (Figs 1, 4) approximately 1.3 times as long as pronotum, each with two basal impressions separated by a short keel; humeral angles obsolete; lateral margins weakly convex in dorsal view; posterior margin with suberect pubescence. Hind wings completely reduced. Metaventrite (Figs 5-6) smoothly convex in cross-section.

Abdomen (Figs 1, 4) slightly shorter than pronotum and elytra combined; tergite IV large, approximately 1.5 times as long as elytra and longer than combined length of remaining tergites combined, basally with a transverse and sometimes medially interrupted band of dense scaly pubescence and a broad medio-basal impression extending approximately to middle of tergite; sternite IV (Fig. 2) large, longer than remaining sternites combined, basally with a transverse band of dense scaly pubescence (Fig. 5).

♂: aedeagus symmetric; median lobe 2-3 times as long as broad and with broad parameres apically extending approximately to apex of median lobe; internal sac with few and simple sclerotized internal structures of species-specific shapes.

In view of the remarkable uniformity of external characters of the species of the *A. clavigeroides* group and in order to avoid repetition the following descriptions focus on basic measurements and diagnostic characters, primarily the male sexual characters.

### ***Afropselaphus clavigeroides*** **(REITTER, 1882)** (Figs 1-3, 7, Map 1)

*Pselaphus clavigeroides* REITTER 1882: 333 f.
*Pselaphogenius clavigeroides*: BESUCHET 1960: 27 ff.

M a t e r i a l e x a m i n e d : **LEBANON**: 1♂, Rayfoun, ca. 33°58'N, 35°42'E, 990 m, miexed oak forest, pitfall trap, 14.II.-24.III.2016, leg. Reuter (cBra); 1♂, same data, but 33°59'N, 35°42'E, 11-23.I.2018 (cBra); 1♀, same data, but 3-14.XII.2018 (cBra).

R e d e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.75-1.85 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.35; HW: 0.27-0.28; AL♂: 0.80; AL♀: 0.75; PpL: 0.36 mm; PL: 0.31-0.33; PW: 0.28-0.30; EL♂: 0.44; EL♀: 0.36; EW♂: 0.70; EW♀: 0.68; AedL: 0.34-0.36. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Ventral aspect as in Fig. 2).

Head approximately 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of five ommatidia. Antennae: antennomeres I approximately twice as long as broad, II approximately 1.5 times as long as broad, III-IV weakly oblong, V-X approximately as long as broad or

weakly oblong, and XI nearly twice as long as broad. Maxillary palpomere IV with apical club approximately half as long as total length of palpomere. Pronotum with median ante-basal fovea missing or forming an indistinct sulcus. Mesoventrite (Fig. 3) broad and rectangular.

♂: metaventrite more strongly convex than in female; sternite IV with distinct medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite, with few short setae at lateral margins; aedeagus (Fig. 7) apically strongly bent ventrad; internal sac with long, stout, and nearly straight spine.

Comparative notes: BESUCHET (1960) placed *A. clavigeroides* near *A. caviventris* (REITTER, 1884) from Greece, which, however, is distinguished from *A. clavigeroides* by a much shorter club of the maxillary palpomere IV, pronounced modifications of the male metaventrite, and a completely different structure of the aedeagus, suggesting that it is not closely allied to the species of the *A. clavigeroides* group. Aside from the internal structure of the aedeagus, *A. clavigeroides* may additionally be distinguished from other representatives of the *A. clavigeroides* group by sexually dimorphic elytra, if the elytra are indeed constantly shorter in females than in males. Only a single female was available for the present study.

Distribution and natural history: The confirmed distribution is confined to the environs of Beirut, Lebanon (Map 1). The examined specimens were collected in a mixed oak forest at an altitude of nearly 1,000 m.

***Afropselaphus muglanus* nov.sp.** (Figs 4, 8, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "TR - Muğla, No. 10, 20 km NNE Fethiye, N-exp. oakwood, 970 m, 36°47'28N, 29°11'29E 27.III.2002, V. Assing / *Afropselaphus muglanus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 2♂♂ [1 without aedeagus], 2♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Muğla, the name of the Turkish province where the species was discovered.

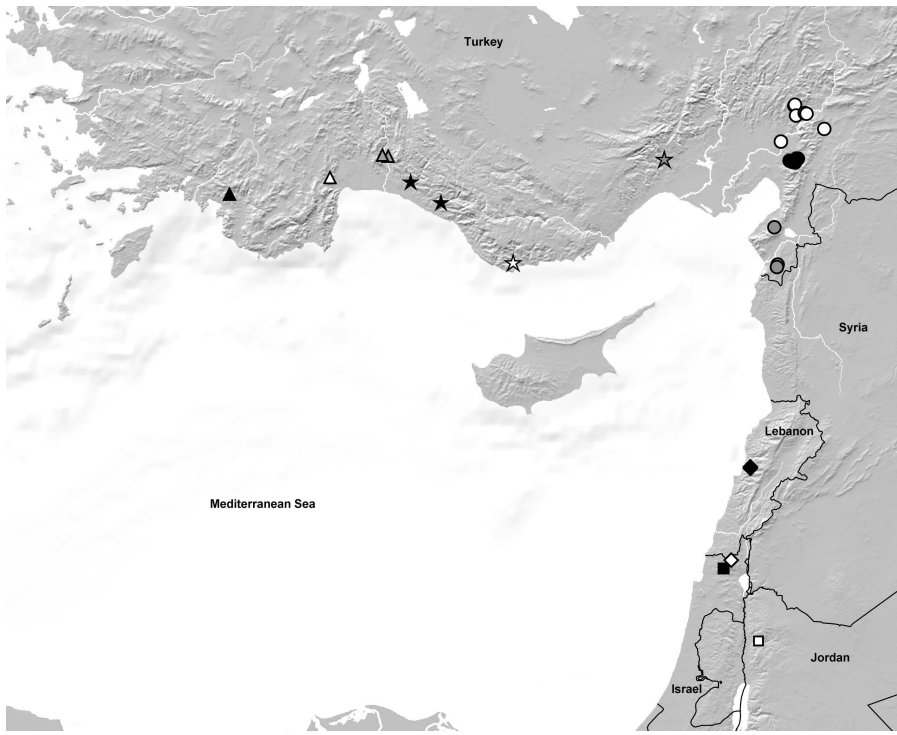
Description: Body length 1.80-1.90 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36-0.38; HW: 0.27-0.28; AL: 0.94-1.00; PpL: 0.40 mm; PL: 0.32-0.34; PW: 0.29-0.30; EL: 0.40-0.42; EW: 0.64-0.68; AedL: 0.40. Habitus as in Fig. 4.

Eyes composed of 7-8 ommatidia. Antennae with all antennomeres distinctly oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV 0.22 mm long. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with distinct ante-basal lateral foveae connected to basal margin of pronotum by fine keel; median ante-basal fovea obsolete. Elytra broadest at posterior margins.

♂: metaventrite more strongly convex than in female; sternite IV with narrow medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 8) with convex apex bent ventrad; internal sac with a broad sclerite of triangular shape and with numerous minute denticles.

Comparative notes: This species is distinguished from the geographically close *A. pisidicus* (see below) by a longer, more slender, and apically more strongly tapering aedeagus with longer parameres and with internal structures of different shapes.

D i s t r i b u t i o n  a n d  n a t u r a l  h i s t o r y : The type specimens were sifted from litter in an oak forest near Fethiye (Southwest Turkey: Muğla) (Map 1) at an altitude of 970 m.




**Map 1**: Distribution of *Afropselaphus muglanus* (black triangle), *A. pisidicus* (white triangle), *A. tenuispinosus* (grey triangles), *A. wolfi* (black stars), *A. frederici* (white star), *A. cilicicus* (grey star), *A. longispinosus* (white circles), *A. spoliatus* (black circles), *A. bispinosus* (grey circles), *A. clavigeroides* (black diamonds), *A. assmanni* (white diamond), *A. aequalis* (black square), and *A. meybohmi* (white square).

***Afropselaphus pisidicus* nov.sp.** (Figs 6, 9, Map 1)

T y p e  m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "TR - Antalya Umgeb. Antalya Termessos 14.4.1984 leg V.u.C. Brachat / *Afropselaphus pisidicus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 10♂♂, 11♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 2♂♂, 1♀: "N36°59' E030°28' T Umgeb. Antalya Termessos, 700-800 m 21.4.2001 Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Pisidia, the ancient name of the region where the type locality is situated.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.70-1.85 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.37; HW: 0.28; AL: 0.88-0.92; PpL: 0.38-0.40 mm; PL: 0.30; PW: 0.26-0.27; EL: 0.42-0.44; EW: 0.64-0.66; AedL: 0.28-0.30.

Eyes composed of 6-8 ommatidia. Antennae with all antennomeres distinctly oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with a median

ante-basal fovea and an indistinct ante-basal sulcus. Mesoventrite (Fig. 6) with sharp median carina.

♂: metaventrite (Fig. 6) weakly convex (similar to that of female); sternite IV without medio-basal impression; aedeagus (Fig. 9) small, apically weakly tapering and with nearly truncate apex; parameres short, apically not extending to apex of median lobe; internal sac with moderately sclerotized structure of triangular shape.

Comparative notes: This species is distinguished from other representatives of the *A. clavigeroides* group by a shorter aedeagus with nearly parallel lateral margins, a broad and nearly truncate apex, and an internal structure of distinctive shape.

Distribution and natural history: The specimens were collected in Termessos, approximately 23 km to the northwest of Antalya, Antalya province, Southwest Turkey (Map 1). They were sifted from litter in dry shrubland.

***Afropselaphus wolfi* nov.sp.** (Figs 5, 10, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "TR - Antalya N/W Alanya Umgeb. Güzelbağ 21.-26.4.1984 leg. V.u.C. Brachat / *Afropselaphus wolfi* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 1♂, 3♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 2♂♂, 3♀♀: "N36°56'36 E31°29'47 (41) TR Antalya; Yaylaalan n Side 460 m; 27.IV.2008; leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

Etymology: This species is dedicated to Ingo Wolf, Bad Endorf, who joined the first author during a field trip to Turkey in 1984.

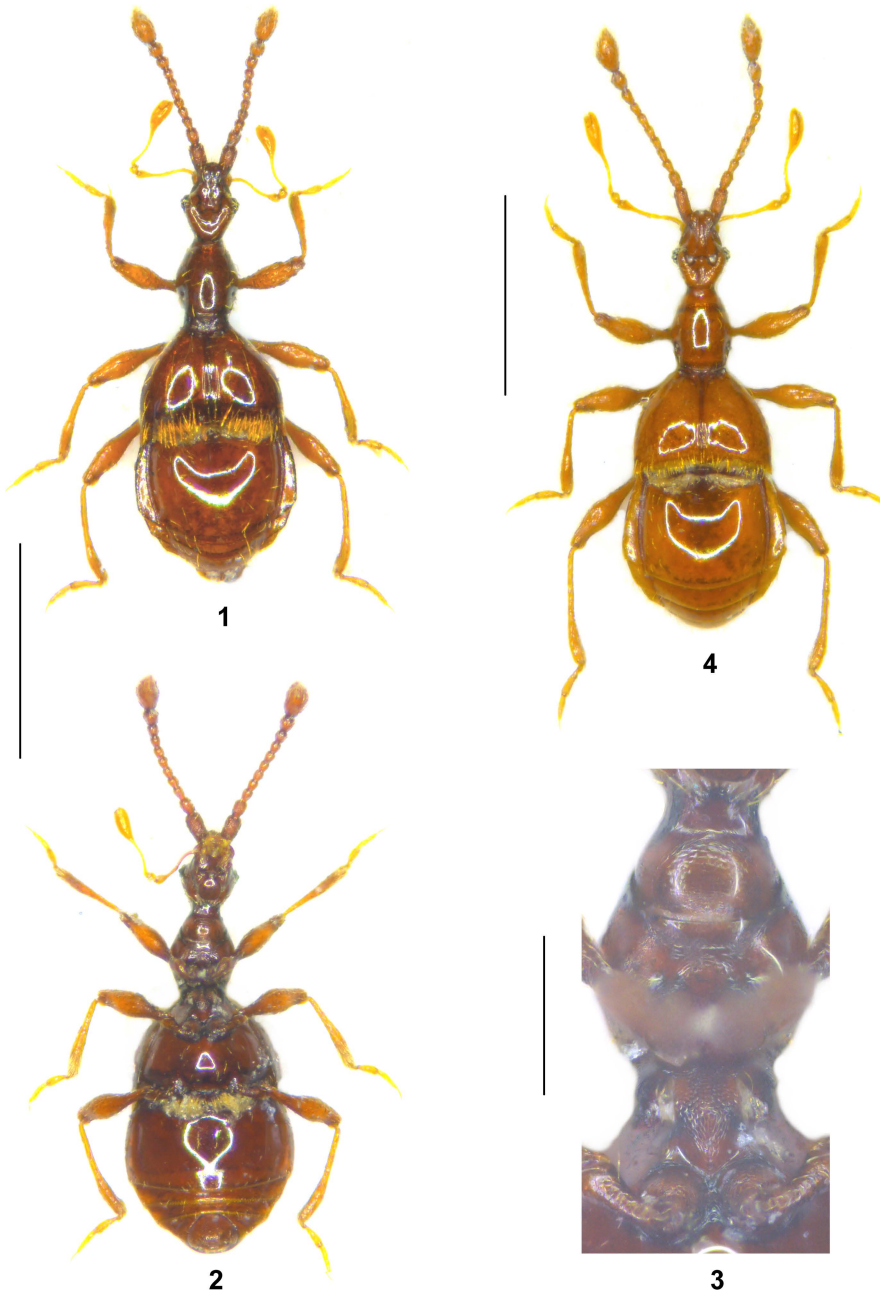
Description: Body length 1.60-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.37; HW: 0.26-0.27; AL♂: 0.80-0.86; AL♀: 0.78-0.80; PpL: 0.32-0.33 mm; PL: 0.30-0.32; PW: 0.27-0.28; EL: 0.36-0.38; EW: 0.62-0.68; AedL: 0.36-0.39.

Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae of variable shape, compact to slender. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, without median ante-basal fovea. Mesoventrite (Fig. 5) with median carina.

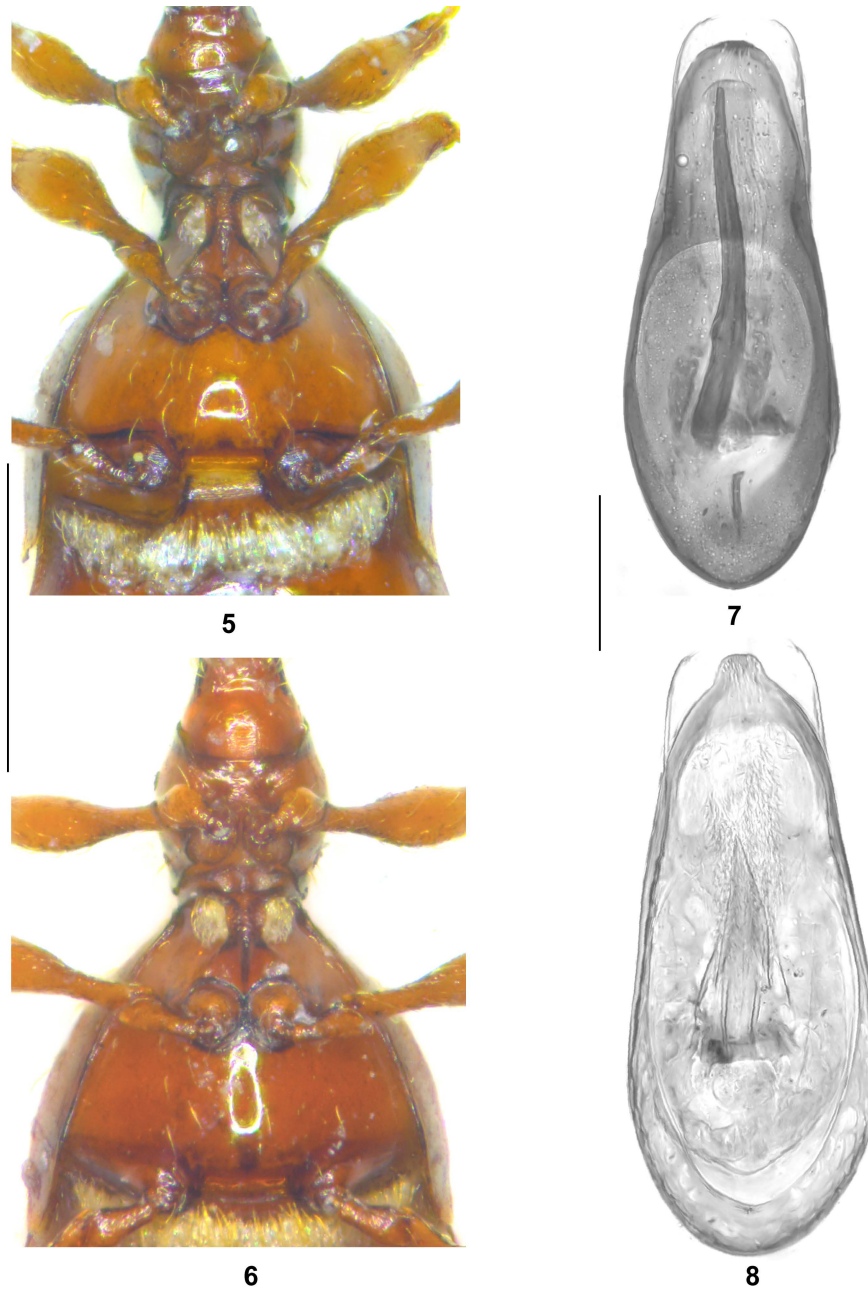
♂: metaventrite (Fig. 5) more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with circular to oval medio-basal impression not extending to middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 10) with apex directed ventrad; internal sac with long and stout median spine.

Comparative notes: Among the species of the *A. clavigeroides* group (except *A. clavigeroides*), *A. wolfi* is characterised particularly by the distinctive internal structure of the aedeagus. It differs from *A. clavigeroides* by a narrower mesoventrite with a median median carina.

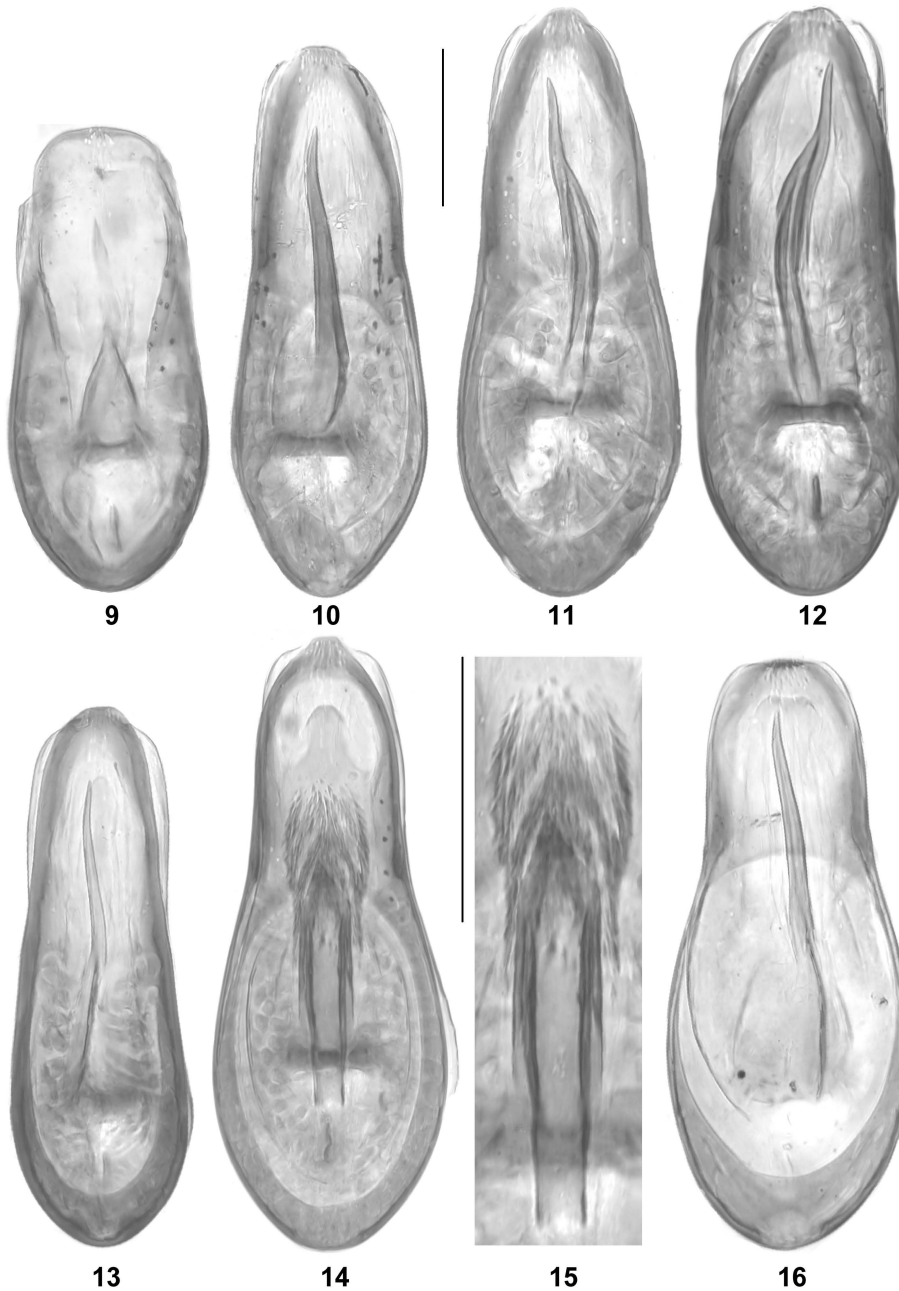
Distribution and natural history: The specimens were collected in two localities in the east of Antalya province (South Turkey), one to the Northwest of Alanya and one to the north of Manavgat (Map 1). They were sifted from litter beneath bushes.



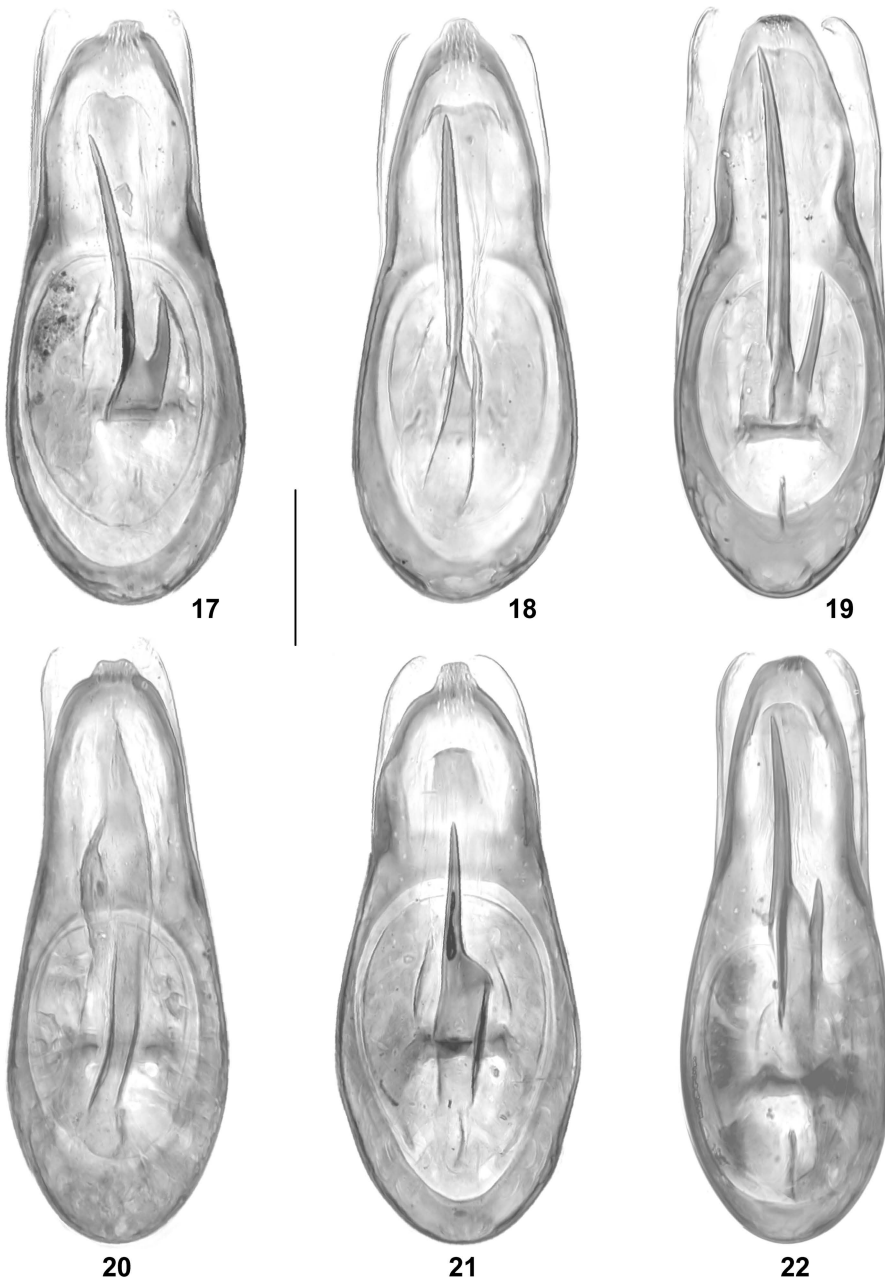

**Figs 1-4**: *Afropselaphus clavigeroides* (**1-3**) and *A. muglanus* nov.sp. (**4**): (**1, 4**) habitus; (**2**) ventral aspect of body; (**3**) pro- and mesothorax in ventral view. Scale bars: 1-2, 4: 1.0 mm; 3: 0.2 mm.



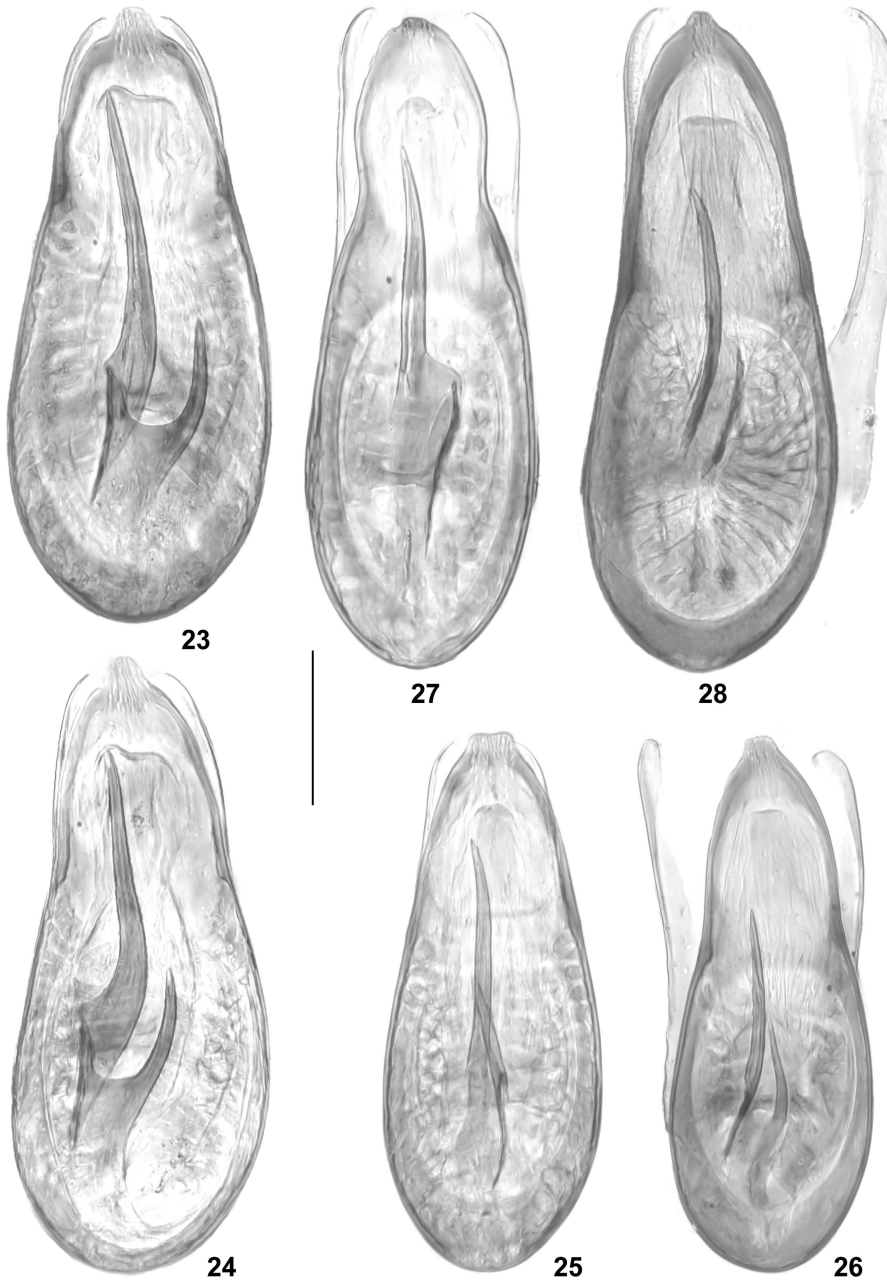

**Figs 5-8**: *Afropselaphus wolfi* nov.sp. (**5**), *A. pisidicus* nov.sp. (**6**), *A. clavigeroides* (**7**), and *A. muglanus* nov.sp. (**8**): (**5-6**) male thorax in ventral view; (**7-8**) aedeagus in dorsal view. Scale bars: 5-6: 0.5 mm; 7-8: 0.1 mm.



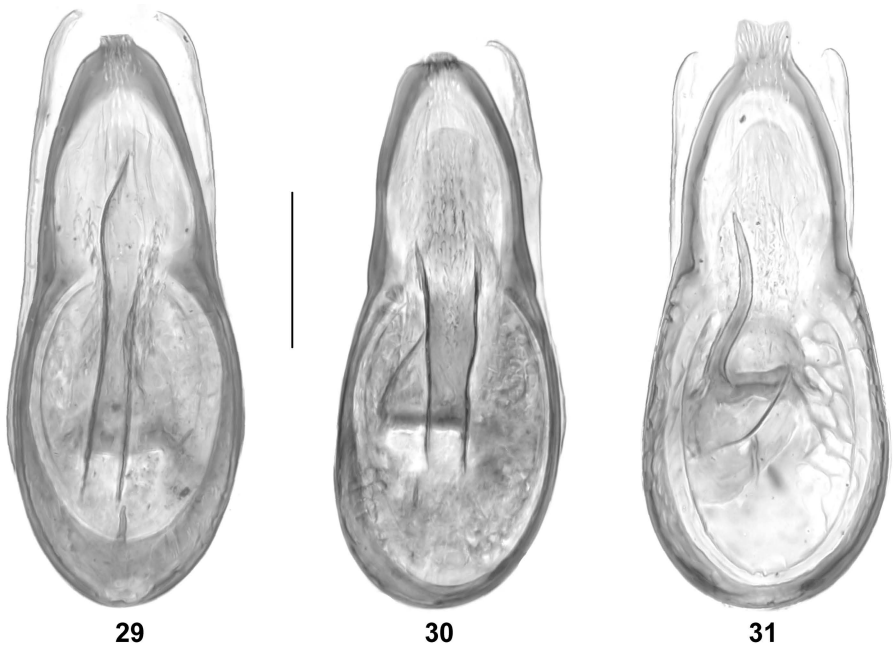

**Figs 9-16**: *Afropselaphus pisidicus* nov.sp. (**9**), *A. wolfi* nov.sp. (**10**), *A. sinuatus* nov.sp. (**11-12**), *A. tenuispinosus* nov.sp. (**13**), *A. frederici* nov.sp. (**14-15**), and *A. cilicicus* nov.sp. (**16**): (**9-11, 13-14, 16**) aedeagus in dorsal view; (**12**) aedeagus in ventral view; (**15**) internal structures of aedeagus. Scale bars: 0.1 mm.




**Figs 17-22**: *Afropselaphus longispinosus* nov.sp. (**17-19**) from Kahramanmaraş (**17**) and Osmaniye (**18-19**), *A. adanicus* nov.sp. (**20**), *A. spoliatus* nov.sp. (**21**), and *A. latibasalis* nov.sp. (**22**): aedeagus in dorsal view. Scale bar: 0.1 mm.




**Figs 23-28**: *Afropselaphus trispinosus* nov.sp. (**23-24**), *A. bispinosus* nov.sp. (**25-26**) from South Hatay (**25**) and from Kızıldağı (**26**), *A. kizilicus* nov.sp. (**27**), and *A. meybohmi* nov.sp. (**28**): aedeagus in dorsal view. Scale bar: 0.1 mm.




**Figs 29-31**: *Afropselaphus inaequalis* nov.sp. (**29**), *A. aequalis* nov.sp. (**30**), and *A. assmanni* nov.sp. (**31**): aedeagus in dorsal view. Scale bar: 0.1 mm.

***Afropselaphus sinuatus* nov.sp.** (Figs 11-12, Map 2)

T y p e  m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "Türkei-Südküste Umg. Alanya Str. Küste → Güzelbağ nördl. Payllar 24.3.97 lg. Brachat / *Afropselaphus sinuatus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 4♂♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the sinuate internal structure of the aedeagus.

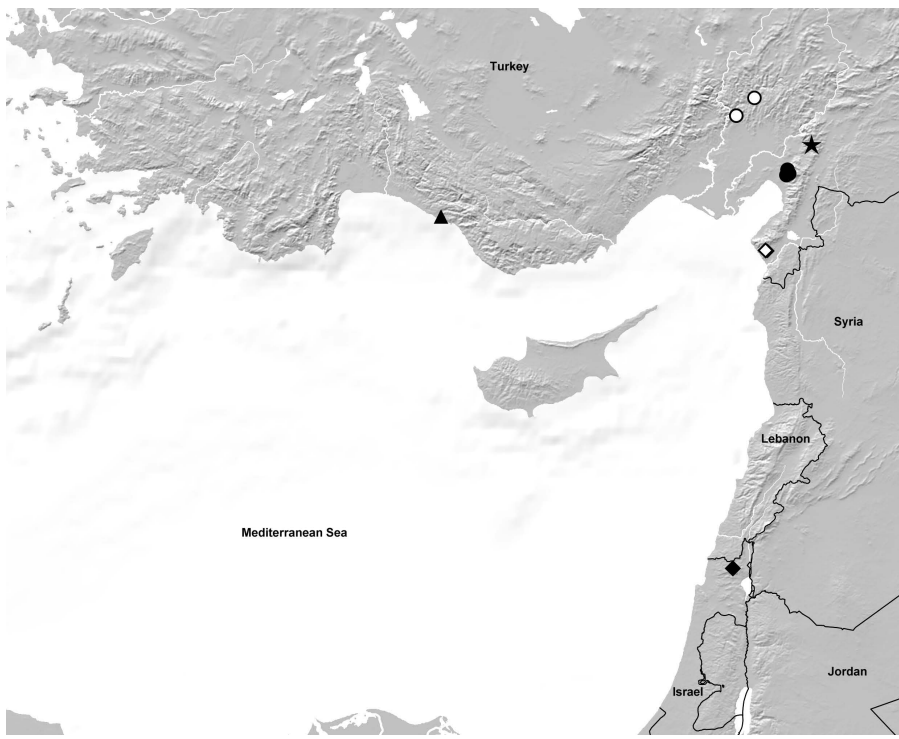
D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.75-1.85 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36-0.38; HW: 0.25-0.27; AL: 0.80-0.87; PpL: 0.38 mm; PL: 0.30-0.32; PW: 0.26-0.28; EL: 0.38-0.42; EW: 0.62-0.68; AedL: 0.38-0.39.

Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres longer than broad. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, median ante-basal fovea missing or indistinct.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with circular medio-basal impression not reaching middle of sternite; aedeagus (Figs 11-12) with curved internal spine.

C o m p a r a t i v e  n o t e s : *Afropselaphus sinuatus* is reliably distinguished from other species of the *A. clavigeroides* group only by the shape of the internal structure of the aedeagus.

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d n a t u r a l h i s t o r y : The type locality is situated in the east of Antalya province, South Turkey (Map 2). The specimens were sifted from litter beneath bushes.




**Map 2**: Distributions of *Afropselaphus sinuatus* (black triangle), *A. adanicus* (white circle), *A. latibasalis* (black star), *A. trispinosus* (black circles), *A. kizilicus* (white diamonds), and *A. inaequalis* (black diamond).

***Afropselaphus tenuispinosus* nov.sp.** (Fig. 13, Map 1)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "N37°12'30 E31°12'31 (5) TR Antalya, Köprü-Tal n Beşkonak, ca 500 m 13.IV.2008 leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus tenuispinosus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 6♂♂, 4♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 1♂: "TR-Südküste Umgeb. Antalya Selge; 900 m; 22.5.2000 Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the slender internal structure of the aedeagus.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.65-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.37; HW: 0.24-0.27; AL: 0.80-0.88; PpL: 0.32-0.34 mm; PL: 0.30-0.32; PW: 0.26-0.28; EL: 0.36-0.38; EW: 0.60-0.63; AedL: 0.34-0.36.

Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres longer than broad. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with distinct median ante-basal fovea. Elytra broadest anterior to posterior margin.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV without medio-basal impression; aedeagus (Fig. 13) apically curved ventrad; internal sac with long and slender spine.

Comparative notes: The shape of the internal spine of the aedeagus is most similar to that of *A. wolfi*, from which *A. tenuispinosus* differs by the presence of a median ante-basal fovea on the pronotum, the absence of a medio-basal impression on the male sternite IV, and a longer internal spine of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: This species was discovered in two close localities some 54-60 km to the northeast of Antalya, Antalya province, South Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from litter between rocks at altitudes of 500 and 900 m.

***Afropselaphus frederici* nov.sp.** (Figs 14-15, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Türkei - Südküste n/w Anamur Ovabaşı Umg. Köşekbaşı 26.3.97 leg. Brachat" / *Afropselaphus frederici* spec.nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 2♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra).

Etymology: This species is dedicated to Frederic Brachat, the first author´s son.

Description: Body length 1.70-1.75 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.35; HW: 0.26; AL♂: 0.87; AL♀: 0.83; PpL: 0.34-0.36 mm; PL: 0.28; PW: 0.26; EL: 0.36-0.37; EW: 0.59; AedL: 0.40.

Eyes composed of 7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres longer than broad. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV 0.18-0.20 mm long, slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and as broad as head, with distinct median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with small circular medio-basal impression not reaching middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 14) apically weakly curved ventrad; internal sac (Fig. 15) with distinctive internal structures.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus frederici* is reliably distinguished from other species of the *A. clavigeroides* group only by the shape of the internal structure of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated to the north of Anamur in western Mersin province, South Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from litter beneath bushes.

***Afropselaphus cilicicus* nov.sp.** (Fig. 16, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "TR - Mersin, ca. 30 km NNW Tarsus, 430 m, No.7 37°08´43N, 34°44´29E, *Pinus*, *Q. ilex*, *Juglans* 26.12.2000, V.Assing / *Afropselaphus cilicicus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 1♂: same data as holotype (cBra); 2♀♀: "TR - Mersin NNW Tarsus Str. Çamalan/Çamlıyayla 430 m; 5.V.2002 N37°8'42" E34°44'29" leg. Meybohm/Brachat" (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Cilicia, the ancient name of the region where the species was discovered.

Description: Body length 1.85-1.90 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.38-0.40; HW: 0.26; AL: 0.94-96; PpL: 0.40-0.44 mm; PL: 0.31-0.32; PW: 0.30; EL: 0.40; EW: 0.68; AedL: 0.38.

Head approximately 1.5 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 4-6 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres distinctly oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum broader than head, with medially weakly pronounced ante-basal sulcus, without median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with distinct medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 16) apically curved ventrad; dorsal phragma large, approximately 3/5 as long as total length of aedeagus; internal sac with basally broad and apically acute spine.

Comparative notes: The shape of the internal spine of the aedeagus is most similar to that of *A. clavigeroides*, from which *A. cilicicus* differs by more slender antennae with more distinctly oblong antennomeres and a broader aedeagus with a large dorsal phragma.

Distribution and natural history: This species was collected in a locality to the north-northwest of Tarsus, Mersin province, South Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from litter in a mixed forest at an altitude of 430 m.

***Afropselaphus adanicus* nov.sp.** (Fig. 20, Map 2)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "TR - Adana (19) 36 km n Kozan; Akkaya; 760 m; 21.IV.2011 N37°45'50; E35°53'40 leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus adanicus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 1♂, 2♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 1♂: "TR Adana (39) Str. Kozan → Mansurlu 7 km vor Seyhan-Brücke; 508 m N37°35'25,3" E35°39'9,0" 29.IV.2005 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂: "TR - Adana (21) Str. Kozan → Mansurlu vor Salmanlı 500 m 18.IV.2009 N37°35′25,7" E35°39'10,8" leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Adana, the name of the province where the species was discovered.

Description: Body length 1.65-1.75 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.35; HW: 0.25-0.26; AL: 0.90-0.92; PpL: 0.38 mm; PL: 0.28-0.30; PW: 0.26-0.28; EL: 0.38-0.40; EW: 0.58-0.62; AedL: 0.36-0.38.

Head approximately 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV 0.21 mm long, more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with medially weakly pronounced ante-basal sulcus.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with circular medio-basal impression not reaching middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 20) apically curved ventrad; middle of apex produced in ventral view; internal structure of distinctive shape.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus adanicus* is distinguished from other species of the *A. clavigeroides* group particularly by the shapes of the apex and the internal structure of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type material was collected in three close localities in Adana province, central southern Turkey (Map 2). In one of these localities, the specimens were sifted from litter on a moist north slope with large rocks. The altitudes range from 500 to 760 m.

***Afropselaphus longispinosus* nov.sp.** (Figs 17-19, Map 1)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "TR - Kahramanmaraş (45) NO Kadirli, 12,5 km NO Andırın → Geben 1500 m 37°39'14,2N 36°26'27,0E 3.V.2005 leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus longispinosus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 2♂♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 1♂: "TR - Kahramanmaraş (44) NO Kadirli 11 km NO Andırın → Geben, 1281 m 37°38'41,7N 36°25'51,0E 3.V.2005 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂, 1♀: "TR - Kahramanmaraş (30) K.Maraş 51 km → Andırın; Başkonuş Yaylası 1250 m; 23./24.IV.2009 N37°33'55,8" E 36°33'37,6" leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂: "TR - Kahramanmaraş (25) K.Maraş; 30 km W 1500 m; Başkonuş Yaylası 28.IV.2004; N37°33'30" E3 6°35'12" leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂: "TR - Kahramanmaraş (50) K.Maraş; 51 km W; 1250 m Başkonuş Yaylası 5.V.2005 N37°33'56,2" E36°33'36,8" leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂: "N37°32'42 E36°26'52 (12) TR - Kahramanmaraş Andırın; 15 km SE; 810 m; 24.IV.2007 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 2♂♂, 2♀♀: "TR - Adana, N Osmaniye, Karatepe Nat. Park, 200 m, 37°17'12N, 36°14'22E Laurisilva, *Q. suber*, 28.12.2000 V. Assing" (cBra); 1♂, 1♀: "TR-ADANA N Osmaniye Karatepe Nat. Park 24.IV-1.V.2002 N37°17'12" E36°14'22" leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂, 1♀: "TR - Kahramanmaraş [8] 30 km SSW K.Maraş, Uzunsöğut, 660 m 37°23'43N, 36°48'06E, 20.III.2005, V. Assing" (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the long internal spine of the aedeagus.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.65-1.85 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.33-0.38; HW: 0.25-0.29; AL♂: 0.86-0.96; AL♀: 0.83; PpL: 0.35-0.38 mm; PL: 0.29-0.34; PW: 0.27-0.29; EL: 0.36-0.40; EW: 0.62-0.68; AedL: 0.36-0.38.

Head approximately 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 5-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong in male; antennomeres IV-X sometimes as broad as long in female. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV at least half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong, with a more or less distinct median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with deep medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Figs 17-19) apically curved ventrad; middle of apex produced in ventral view; internal structure of distinctive shape.

I n t r a s p e c i f i c v a r i a t i o n : The internal structure of the aedeagus is somewhat longer (0.23-0.26 mm) in the males from Karatepe (Osmaniye) (Figs 18-19) and Uzunsöğut (Kahramanmaraş) than in the remaining males from Kahramanmaraş (0.18-0.20 mm) (Fig. 17). However, since (a) there is some variation also within populations, (b) the male from Uzunsöğut is intermediate between those from Karatepe and the remaining localities from Kahramanmaraş, and (c) no additional convincing differences were observed, this polyporphism is attributed to intra- rather than interspecific variation.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : *Afropselaphus longispinosus* is reliably distinguished from other species of the *A. clavigeroides* group only by the shapes of the internal structures of the aedeagus.

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d n a t u r a l h i s t o r y : The type material was collected in several localities in Kahramanmaraş and Osmaniye provinces, central southern Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from forest floor litter (oak, laurel, pine, etc.). The altitudes range from 200 to 1,500 m.

***Afropselaphus spoliatus* nov.sp.** (Fig. 21, Map 1)

T y p e  m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "TR - Osmaniye (27) Nur Dağ; E Osmaniye Yarpuz, 920 m; 30.IV.2004 37°3'53N 36°24'29E leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus spoliatus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 1♂, 2♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 1♂, 1♀: "TR - Osmaniye (30) Nur Dağ; E Osmaniye Yarpuz, 700 m; 30.IV.2004 37°5'8N, 36°20'21E leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂: "N37°06´16 E36°26´47 (34) TR Osmaniye Kaypak → Yarpuz, 990 m; 3.V.2007 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♀: "N37°06'17 E036°25'47 (35) TR Osmaniye Kaypak Richtung Yarpuz 1370 m Brachat & Meybohm 3.V.2007" (cBra); 1♀: "TURKEY (ADANA): 10 km E Osmaniye, NW Karataş, 37°04'32"N, 36°22'25"E, 900 m, N exp. dry creek valley, oaks & beeches, sifted, 6.IV.2004, leg. M. Schülke [T04-18]" (MNB).

E t y m o l o g y :  The specific epithet is the past participle of the Latin verb spoliare (to rob) and alludes to the presence of only one spine (rather than two) in the internal sac of the aedeagus.

D e s c r i p t i o n :  Body length 1.60-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36-0.38; HW: 0.25-0.28; AL♂: 0.84-0.88; AL♀: 0.81-0.84; PpL: 0.32-0.36 mm; PL: 0.30; PW: 0.28; EL: 0.36-0.38; EW: 0.58-0.67; AedL: 0.35-0.38.

Head approximately 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong, with a shallow transverse median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with deep oval medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Fig. 21) apically weakly curved ventrad; middle of apex produced in ventral view; internal structure of distinctive shape.

C o m p a r a t i v e  n o t e s :  *Afropselaphus spoliatus* is distinguished from the similar *A. latibasalis* by a weakly modified male metaventrite and by the shape of the internal structure of the aedeagus.

D i s t r i b u t i o n  a n d  n a t u r a l  h i s t o r y :  The type material was collected in several close localities in Osmaniye province, central southern Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from sycamore, oak, and beech litter at altitudes of 700-1,370 m.

***Afropselaphus latibasalis* nov.sp.** (Fig. 22, Map 2)

T y p e  m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "N37°15'53 E 36°36' (2) TR Osmaniye n Bahçe Bekdemir 1200 m Brachat & Meybohm 21.4.2007 / *Afropselaphus latibasalis* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 6♂♂: same data as holotype (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y :  The specific epithet (adjective) alludes to the broad-based internal structure of the aedeagus.

D e s c r i p t i o n :  Body length 1.65-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.35-0.36; HW: 0.24-0.26; AL: 0.82-0.88; PpL: 0.35-0.36 mm; PL: 0.30-0.32; PW: 0.27-0.28; EL: 0.36-0.38; EW: 0.59-0.61; AedL: 0.36-0.39.

Head little more than 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with a transverse median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite convex, with scattered long setae, and with two series of setae in postero-median portion; sternite IV with a shallow medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Fig. 22) apically weakly curved ventrad; internal structure of distinctive shape.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus latibasalis* is distinguished from the similar *A. longispinosus* and *A. spoliatus* by the presence of two series of setae on the male metaventrite and by the shape of the internal structure of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated to the north of Bahçe in Osmaniye province, central southern Turkey (Map 2). The specimens were sifted from fern and bush litter between large rocks at an altitude of 1200 m.

***Afropselaphus trispinosus* nov.sp.** (Figs 23-25, Map 2)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N36°58'49 E36°17'43 (39) TR Umgeb. Osmaniye Str. Erzin → Zorkun 960 m, 5.V.2007 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" / *Afropselaphus trispinosus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 3♂♂, 2♀♀: "TR - Osmaniye Nur Dağları Str. Osmaniye → Zorkun 550-850 m, 25.IV.2002 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra); 1♂, 1♀: "N36°57′58 E36°15'37 (36) TR Umgeb. Osmaniye 7 km E Erzin; 600-650 m, 4.V.2007 leg. Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet (adjective) alludes to the presence of three spines in the internal sac of the aedeagus.

Description: Body length 1.70-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.36; HW: 0.24-0.26; AL♂: 0.84-0.90; AL♀: 0.81-0.84; PpL: 0.35-0.38 mm; PL: 0.30; PW: 0.28-0.29; EL: 0.37-0.40; EW: 0.62-0.64; AedL: 0.38-0.41.

Head approximately 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 5-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres usually oblong, antennomeres IX and X in one female paratype as broad as long. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with distinct and relatively large median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more convex than in female, with two series of setae in postero-median portion; sternite IV with a circular medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Figs 23-24) apically weakly curved ventrad; internal sac with three spines.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus trispinosus* is distinguished from the similar *A. spoliatus* by a distinct median ante-basal fovea on the pronotum and by the internal structures of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The specimens were collected in Nur Dağları near Osmaniye, Osmaniye province, central southern Turkey (Map 2), by sifting litter under bushes in deciduous forests at altitudes between 550 and 960 m.

***Afropselaphus kizilicus* nov.sp.** (Fig. 27, Map 2)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "TR - Hatay (14) WSW Antakya w Teknepınar; 400 m; 14.IV.2009 N36°12'18,5 E35°58'57,4 leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus kizilicus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 3♂♂, 4♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 2♀♀: "N36°12'18 E035°57'55 TR Hatay Kızıldağ 360m Teknepınar 14.4.2009 Brachat & Meybohm (15)" (cBra); 1♀: "TURKEY (ANTAKYA): Kızıl Dağı 20 km W Antakya, NW Teknepinar, 36°12'33"N, 35°57'30"E, 340 m, *Quercus* forest with *Pinus*, sifted, 3.IV.2004, leg. M. Schülke [T04-06]" (MNB).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet is an adjective derived from Kızıl Dağı, the name of the mountain where the species may be endemic.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.70-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.38-0.40; HW: 0.25-0.26; AL♂: 0.92-1.00; AL♀: 0.86-0.90; PpL: 0.36-0.39 mm; PL: 0.30-0.31; PW: 0.28-0.30; EL: 0.38-0.42; EW: 0.62-0.66; AedL: 0.40-0.42.

Head approximately 1.5 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with small, often shallow median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite more convex than in female, with two tufts of setae in postero-median portion; sternite IV with a shallow oblong medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Fig. 27) apically acute and weakly curved ventrad; internal sac with an apically acute and basally broader spine.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : Regarding the internal structure of the aedeagus, *A. kizilicus* is similar to *A. spoliatus*. It differs from this species by longer antennae with distinctly more oblong antennomeres and by a longer, more slender, and subapically somewhat constricted aedeagus.

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d n a t u r a l h i s t o r y : The known ditribution is confined to Kızıl Dağı in Hatay province, central southern Turkey (Map 2). The specimens were sifted from oak and pine litter at altitudes of 340-400 m.

***Afropselaphus bispinosus* nov.sp.** (Figs 25-26, Map 1)

T y p e m a t e r i a l : Holotype ♂: "TR - Hatay Str. Harbiye → Yayladağı zw. Şenköy u. Kişlak, 900-930 m; 26./27.IV.2002 leg. Meybohm & Brachat / *Afropselaphus bispinosus* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 3♂♂, 5♀♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 3♀♀: "TURKEY (ANTAKYA): Ziyaret Daği 22 km S Antakya, SW Şenköy, 940 m 36°00'32"N, 36°07'13"E, N slope, oak, beech & laurelshrubs, sifted, 2.IV.2004. leg. M. Schülke [T04-02]" (MNB); 2♂♂, 1♀: "TR-Hatay (5) Kızıldağ W-Seite E Madenli: 1120 m, 11.IV.2009 N36°26′01 E36°06'40 leg.Meybohm & Brachat" (cBra).

E t y m o l o g y : The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the presence of two spines in the internal sac of the aedeagus.

D e s c r i p t i o n : Body length 1.60-1.75 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.36; HW: 0.25-0.26; AL♂: 0.86-0.88; AL♀: 0.80-0.85; PpL: 0.35-0.37 mm; PL: 0.28-0.30; PW: 0.27-0.29; EL: 0.34-0.39; EW: 0.60-0.62; AedL: 0.34-0.36.

Head slightly more than 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 5-7 ommatidia. Antennae slender; all antennomeres oblong. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV

slightly more than half as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, median ante-basal fovea variable, small and shallow to large, transverse, and deep.

♂: metaventrite slightly more convex than in female; sternite IV with a distinct oval medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite; aedeagus (Figs 25-26) apically curved ventrad; internal sac with two spines.

Intraspecific variation: Regarding the internal structures of the aedeagus, the males from Kızıldağı (Fig. 26) slightly differ from those from southern Hatay (Fig. 25). Since these differences are not pronounced, they are attributed to intra- rather than interspecific variation.

Comparative notes: This species is distinguished from the similar and geographically close *A. kizilicus* by an unmodified male metaventrite, a more pronounced impression on the male sternite IV, and the presence of two spines in the internal sac of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type material was found in three localities in Hatay province, central southern Turkey (Map 1). The specimens were sifted from the litter of bushes at altitudes of 920-1,120 m.

***Afropselaphus meybohmi* nov.sp.** (Fig. 28, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N32°19'32 E35°43'26 Jordan Ajlun Ajlun Castle 980 m (2) lg. Meybohm 21.2.2014 / *Afropselaphus meybohmi* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra).

Etymology: This species is dedicated to our friend Heinrich Meybohm, Großhansdorf, who collected the holotype.

Description: Body length 1.75 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36; HW: 0.26; AL♂: 0.74; PpL: 0.30 mm; PL: 0.30; PW: 0.28; EL: 0.40; EW: 0.64; AedL: 0.43.

Head slightly more than 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 7 ommatidia. Antennae rather short; antennomeres I-III and XI distinctly longer than broad, IV-IX weakly oblong, and X as long as broad. Apical club of maxillary palpomere IV approximately two-thirds as long as total length of palpomere IV. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with large median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite convex, near posterior margin with two series of setae; sternite IV with distinct oval medio-basal impression extending beyond middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus as in Fig. 28.

Comparative notes: This species is distinguished from *A. clavigeroides* by a pronotum with a large median ante-basal fovea and the internal structures of the aedeagus, from all the representatives of the *A. clavigeroides* group distributed in Turkey also by relatively shorter antennae.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated near Ajlun, some 30 km to the south-southwest of Irbid, Northwest Jordan (Map 1). The holotype was sifted in a pasture woodland at an altitude of 980 m. For a photo of the type locality see figure 71 in ASSING & MEYBOHM (2021).

***Afropselaphus inaequalis* nov.sp.** (Fig. 29, Map 2)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N32°59'35 E35°24'52 Israel Upper Galilee Meron Mts. 1130 m Meybohm 17.3.2011 / *Afropselaphus inaequalis* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratype ♂: same data as holotype (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the asymmetric structure in the internal sac of the aedeagus.

Description: Body length 1.70-1.80 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36-0.37; HW: 0.28; AL: 0.81-0.85; PL: 0.32; PW: 0.30; EL: 0.40; EW: 0.68; AedL: 0.36.

Head slightly more than 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6 ommatidia. Antennae with antennomeres I-IV and XI distinctly oblong, V-VIII weakly oblong, and IX and X as long as broad. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, median ante-basal fovea weakly pronounced.

♂: metaventrite convex; sternite IV with oval medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Fig. 29) apically curved ventrad and with truncate median extension; internal structure of distinctive shape.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus inaequalis* is distinguished from the similar and geographically close *A. aequalis* only by the internal structure of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated in Upper Galilee, North Israel (Map 2). The specimens were sifted from litter in shrubland at an altitude of 1,130 m.

***Afropselaphus aequalis* nov.sp.** (Fig. 30, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N32°57'20 E035°19'55 Israel Upper Galilee Harashim 830 m Meybohm 21.3.2011" / *Afropselaphus aequalis* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra).

Etymology: The specific epithet (Latin, adjective) alludes to the symmetric internal structure of the aedeagus.

Description: Body length 1.70 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.36; HW: 0.27; AL: 0.80; PL: 0.30; PW: 0.28; EL: 0.40; EW: 0.63; AedL: 0.36.

Head 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 7 ommatidia. Antennae with antennomeres I-VIII and XI weakly oblong and IX and X as long as broad. Pronotum distinctly shorter and slightly broader than head, without median ante-basal fovea.

♂: metaventrite weakly convex; sternite IV with distinct oval medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite, lateral margins of this impression with a series of short setae; aedeagus (Fig. 30) apically with truncate median extension curved ventrad; internal structure of distinctive shape.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus aequalis* is distinguished from the similar and geographically close *A. inaequalis* only by the shape of the internal structure of the aedeagus.

Distribution and natural history: The type locality is situated

in Upper Galilee, North Israel (Map 1). The holotype was sifted from litter and grass on a road margin with shrubs.

***Afropselaphus assmanni* nov.sp.** (Fig. 31, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "N33°02'20" E35°25'30" ISRAEL Upper Galilee Ya'ar Bar'am II.2005 leg. Aßmann" / *Afropselaphus assmanni* spec. nov. ♂ det. Brachat 2021 / Holotypus" (cBra). Paratypes: 1♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (cBra); 1♂: "ISRAEL (North distr.) Upper Galilee Ya'ar Bar'am, ca. 1.5 km W Jish (Gush Khaiav) ca. 700 m (pine forest) 9. III.2008 D.W. Wrase [4]" (MNB).

Etymology: This species is dedicated to Thorsten Aßmann, Lüneburg, who collected most of the type specimens.

Description: Body length 1.65-1.75 mm. Other measurements (in mm): HL: 0.34-0.36; HW: 0.25-0.26; AL: 0.74-0.76; PL: 0.30-0.31; PW: 0.25-0.26; EL: 0.38; EW: 0.62-0.63; AedL: 0.36-0.38.

Head slightly more than 1.3 times as long as broad. Eyes composed of 6-7 ommatidia. Antennae rather short, antennomeres IV-VIII as long as broad. Pronotum weakly oblong and slightly broader than head, with a median pair of small ante-basal foveae.

♂: metaventrite more distinctly convex than in female; sternite IV with rather deep oval medio-basal impression extending to middle of sternite; aedeagus (Fig. 31) apically with pronounced concave extension; internal sac with distinctly curved spine.

Comparative notes: *Afropselaphus assmanni* is distinguished from the geographically close *A. inaequalis* and *A. aequalis* particularly by shorter antennae and an internal structure of the aedeagus of completely different shape.

Distribution and natural history: The type material was found near Ya'ar Bar'am in Upper Galilee, North Israel (Map 1). At least one of the paratypes was collected in a pine forest at an altitude of 700 m.

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## Zusammenfassung

Aus dem Gebiet des östlichen Mittelmeerraums von der Südtürkei bis nach Israel und Jordanien war bislang lediglich eine beschriebene Art der Gattung *Afropselaphus* JEANNEL, 1950 bekannt: *A. clavigeroides* (REITTER, 1882) aus dem Libanon. Die Bearbeitung von *Afropselaphus*-Material, das seit den 1980er Jahren in diesem Gebiet gesammelt wurde, ergab, dass die Gattung hier mit 19 ungeflügelten und lokalendemisch verbreiteten Arten vertreten ist, von denen 18 erstmals beschrieben und abgebildet werden: *Afropselaphus muglanus* nov.sp. (Südwesttürkei: Muğla); *A. pisidicus* nov.sp. (Südwesttürkei: westliches Antalya); *A. wolfi* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: östliches Antalya); *A. sinuatus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: östliches Antalya); *A. tenuispinosus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: nördliches Antalya); *A. frederici* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: westliches Mersin); *A. cilicicus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei:

Mersin); *A. adanicus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Adana); *A. longispinosus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Kahramanmaraş, Osmaniye); *A. spoliatus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Osmaniye); *A. latibasalis* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Osmaniye); *A. trispinosus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Osmaniye); *A. kizilicus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Hatay); *A. bispinosus* nov.sp. (Südtürkei: Hatay); *A. meybohmi* nov.sp. (Jordanien); *A. inaequalis* nov.sp. (Nord-Israel: Obergaliläa); *A. aequalis* nov.sp. (Nord-Israel: Obergaliläa); *A. assmanni* nov.sp. (Nord-Israel: Obergaliläa). Alle Arten werden der neu aufgestellten *A. clavigeroides*-Gruppe zugeordnet, zu der zusätzlich vier Arten von Kreta gehören. Ein Katalog der aus der Südtürkei und dem Nahen Osten bekannten *Afropselaphus*-Arten wird erstellt. Ihre Verbreitung wird anhand von Karten illustriert. Die Gattung umfasst damit derzeit insgesamt 45 Arten, die in der Westpaläarktis ostwärts bis Usbekistan verbreitet sind.

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