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A new species of *Ammobius* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1844 from Oman

(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Tenebrioninae: Opatrini)

Roland GRIMM

Abstract

Ammobius tarsalis sp. n. from Oman is described and compared with its congeners *A. asperatus* (CHAMPION, 1894), *A. cyprius* GRIMM, 1991, and *A. rufus* (LUCAS, 1846).

Introduction

According to LÖBL & SMETANA (2008) in the Palearctic Region the genus *Ammobius* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1844 is represented by three species: *A. asperatus* (CHAMPION, 1894) from southern China (LÖBL & SMETANA 2008), *A. cyprius* GRIMM, 1991 described from Cyprus (GRIMM 1991) and later also found at the Mediterranean coast of Turkey (LILLIG & AYDIN 2006), and on the Aegean island Rhodos (personal collections), and *A. rufus* (LUCAS, 1846) from the Mediterranean and Black Sea coasts (LÖBL & SMETANA 2008). An additional species was found by Prof. Dr. HANS J. BREMER in the United Arab Emirates and is described hereafter.

Acronyms of depositories

CRG – Collection Dr. ROLAND GRIMM, Neuenbürg, Germany; SMNS – Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany; ZSMB – Collection Prof. (emer.) Dr. HANS J. BREMER, Osnabrück, now property of Zoologische Staatssammlung, Munich, Germany.

Ammobius tarsalis sp. n. (Figs 1-5)

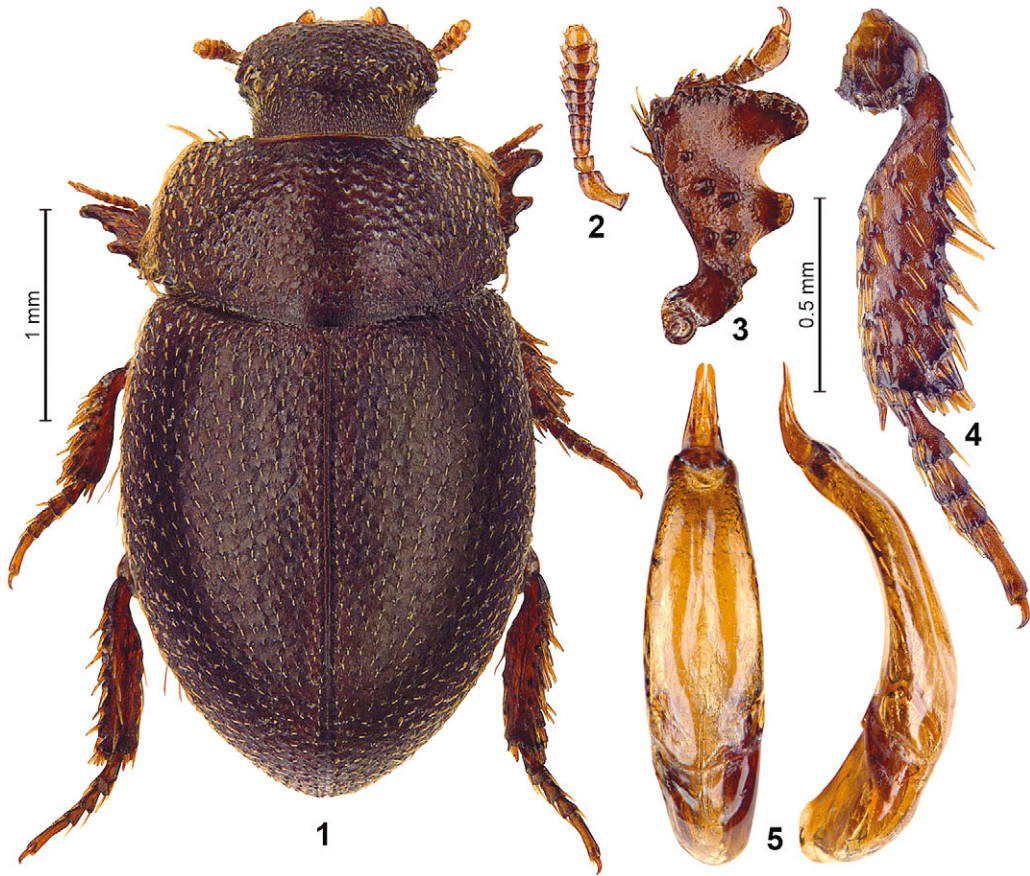
Holotype: ♂, United Arab Emirates, Golf von [Gulf of] Oman, kleine Insel vor [offshore islet by] Khor Fakkan, im Sand vergraben am Strand [buried in littoral sands], 8.III.1990, H. J. BREMER leg. (ZSMB).

Paratypes: Same data as holotype, 7 specimens (ZSMB), 2 specimens (CRG), 1 specimen (SMNS). – United Arab Emirates, Halbinsel [Peninsula] Musandam, Khor Fakkan, 12.-18.II.1989, U. et H. J. BREMER leg., 8 specimens (ZSMB), 3 specimens (CRG).

Derivatio nominis: The species name refers to the laterally compressed tarsi.

Description: Ovate, convex, apterous, brown to dark brown, dull, pilosity yellowish; integument dorsal feebly, ventral distinctly microreticulated. Body length 3.2–3.9 mm, body width 1.9–2.1 mm.

Head with clypeus reversely trapezoidal emarginated. Surface densely covered with fine, isolated granules bearing short, scalelike, adjacent and blunt bristles. Genae broader than eyes. Eyes small and narrow, constricted by thick genal cathus. Antennae (Fig. 2) short with pedicel nearly square; third antennomere shortly pedunculate and all following antennomeres closely fitted into the other, transverse; the penultimate two antennomeres hardly broader than previous antennomere but considerably larger in size; last antennomere narrower, subquadrate.



Figs 1-5: *Ammobius tarsalis* sp. n. – **Fig. 1.** Dorsal view of holotype. **Fig. 2.** Antenna. **Fig. 3.** Inner side of protibia. **Fig. 4.** Outer side of metatibia. **Fig. 5.** Aedeagus dorsal and lateral.

Pronotum widest at about middle, densely covered with small, somewhat triangular granules on the disc, becoming more roundish laterally, with scalelike short setae like those on head, often rubbed off on disc. Anterior border widely emarginated, anterior angles not protruding, subrectangular. Lateral borders slightly rounded and weakly narrowed towards base and apex, with long cilia. Basal border strongly arcuate, feebly margined and emarginated laterally; posterior angles obtuse.

Elytra obovate, widest in about middle, covered with fine, abraded setigerous granules, only partially with an indication of rows; spaces between granules much larger than diameters of granules; setae adjacent discally, becoming semi-erect distally. Base broadly emarginated. Cilia of sides as long as those of pronotum. Lateral borders not visible from above. Pseudopleura gradually narrowed towards apex, becoming evanescent near level of base of last visible ventrite.

Legs stout, of digger-type. Anterior tibiae (Fig. 3) strongly dilated towards apex; outer border apically enlarged into a broadly rounded lobe; another rounded but smaller lobe in the middle of outer border; between apical and median lobes broadly emarginated; ventral side except the granules on internal basal border with about 4-5 granules on disc. Meso- and notably metatibiae laterally compressed; meso- and metatibiae arcuate basally, than mesotibiae very faintly and metatibiae (Fig. 4) not dilated towards apex, bearing spines on outer and posterior sides. Tarsi, notably pro- and mesotarsi distinctly laterally compressed.

Aedeagus see Fig. 5.

Differential diagnosis: *Ammobius tarsalis* **sp. n.** is easily to distinguish from his congeners by distinctly different structure of dorsal side, particularly the fine isolated granulation on elytra and by the laterally compressed tarsi. These characters are so conspicuous that it could be justified to create a new genus. But this should be verified within the framework of a detailed study of the very similar genera *Ammobius* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1844, *Plesioderes* MULSANT & REY, 1860, *Nesocaedius* KOLBE, 1915, *Corinta* KOCH, 1950, and *Cornopterus* KOCH, 1950 which all occupy similar habitats.

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Johannes REIBNITZ (SMNS) for producing the photographs and arranging the figures on plates.

Zusammenfassung

Ammobius tarsalis **sp. n.** aus den Vereinigten Arabischen Emiraten wird beschrieben und mit *A. asperatus* (CHAMPION, 1894), *A. cyprius* GRIMM, 1991 sowie *A. rufus* (LUCAS, 1846), den anderen bekannten Arten der Gattung *Ammobius* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1844, verglichen.

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Author's address:

Dr. Roland GRIMM
Unterer Sägerweg 74
75305 Neuenbürg
Germany
grimm.tenebrio@t-online.de

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