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A new species of *Stenus* LATREILLE from Spain: *Stenus (Parastenus) virgo* spec. nov. (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Steninae)

With 5 Figures

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Abstract. *Stenus (Parastenus) virgo* spec. nov. is described from Southeastern Spain. Differential characters allowing separation from the related *Stenus festivus* L. BENICK, *S. bussacoensis* PUTHZ and *S. cyanomelas* PUTHZ are indicated and illustrated. For the first time a drawing of the spermatheca of *S. festivus* is presented.

Introduction

Of the six Palaearctic species of *Parastenus* whose 4th tarsomere is not or not clearly bilobed and whose body-size exceeds 4 mm, four species occur in the Western Mediterranean, all of them apparently endemic and of utmost rarity: *Stenus festivus* L. BENICK, *S. bussacoensis* PUTHZ (both in Spain), *S. cyanomelas* PUTHZ (Morocco, Grand Atlas) and *S. abruzzorum* PUTHZ (Italy) (PUTHZ, 1965, 1967b, 1971). Staphylinid material collected by Mr HEINRICH MEYBOHM, Stelle, during an excursion in the province of Alicante, Spain, contained a ♀ *Parastenus* sharing the general characters of this group of species, but differing from them in both external morphology and particularly the shape of the spermatheca. It is, therefore, treated here as a representative of a distinct species, which is described below. A description based on a single specimen and consequently only one sex may seem unsatisfactory, but considering the presumed rarity and, above all, the currently hostile official attitude towards entomological field work in Spain (WEISERT, 1995), it appears doubtful that further specimens, especially males (hence the name!) should be collected in the near future.

I am much indebted to Dr. VOLKER PUTHZ, Schlitz, for the loan of material of *Stenus festivus*, *S. bussacoensis*, *S. cyanomelas* and *S. abruzzorum* from his collection, for his valuable advice and for his critical comments on the manuscript. Moreover, I am grateful to Mr HEINRICH MEYBOHM for providing me with the staphylinid by-catches of his excursion.

Stenus (Parastenus) virgo spec. nov.

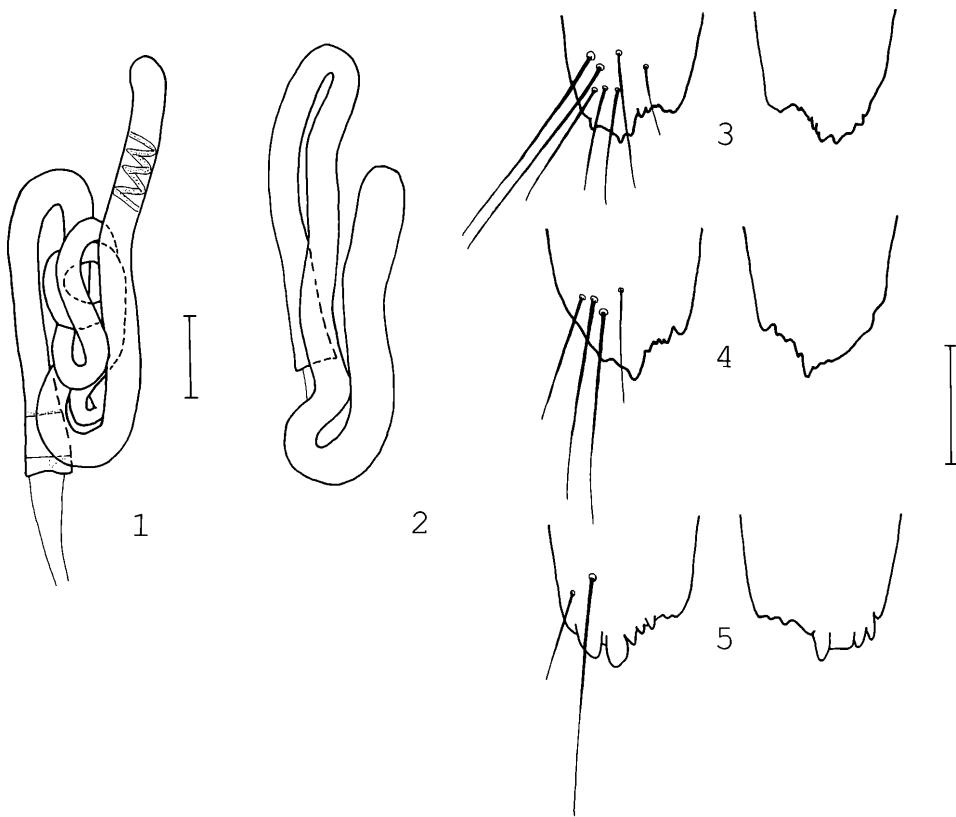
Holotype: ♀, Spanien, Prov. Alicante, Sierra Bernia, 800 m, 15.3.1995, leg. MEYBOHM (coll. ASSING).

Description:

S. virgo spec. nov. belongs to the species of *Parastenus* without a clearly bilobed 4th tarsomere and with a body size of more than 4 mm. Among these species it is most similar to *Stenus festivus* L.

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Figs. 1–5: Spermathecae of *S. virgo* spec. nov. (1) and *S. festivus* L. BENICK (2); hind margins of right and left valvifers of *S. virgo* (3), *S. festivus* (4) and *S. bussacoensis* PUTHZ (5); pubescence omitted in 3–5. Scales: 0.1 mm.

BENICK, *S. bussacoensis* PUTHZ and *S. cyanomelas* PUTHZ, which together with *S. armeniacus* PUTHZ and *S. limicola* KORGE form a complex of species characterized not only by a simple 4th tarsomere, but also by the shape of sternum IX. The hind margin of the latter is intermediate between that of the *glacialis* group and that of the *hospes-cibratus* group, i.e. serrate but not acutely pointed apico-laterally (Figs. 3–5; see also Figs. 52–58 in DAUPHIN, 1994). With *S. glacialis* HEER and allied species *S. virgo* shares such characters as the general appearance, the lack of microsculpture and therefore shiny dorsal surface, and the slender antennae. The general construction of the spermatheca resembles that of *S. muscorum* BRISOUT.

Measurements of holotype (in mm): body length from labrum to hind margin of abdominal tergite VIII (with abdomen fully extracted): 5.25; head width: 1.06; pronotal width: 0.72; pronotal length: 0.79; elytral width: 0.98; length of elytra at suture: 0.79.

Dorsal surface very shiny, without microsculpture. Colour of head, thorax and abdomen black with a slight bluish hue; maxillary palpi and antennae yellowish brown, slightly darkened apically; legs yellowish brown with the distal half of the mid- and hindfemora dark brown. Pronotum, elytra and abdomen with conspicuous long, whitish and mostly erect or semi-erect hairs. Punctuation on forebody and on the anterior halves of abdominal tergites III–V ± evenly spaced and relatively deep.

Head wider than elytra (see measurements); frons deep with inconspicuous shallow middle keel; antennae long and slender, third antennomere 2.7× longer than second and 2× longer than fourth.

Pronotum with its maximal width in anterior half, its lateral margins concavely converging posteriorly; longitudinal furrow present, but irregular and inconspicuous. Elytra at suture about as long as pronotum. Posterior area of abdominal tergites with sparse and, especially on tergites VI–VI, fine punctuation.

♀ Spermatheca and valvifers as in Figs. 1 and 3.

♂ Unknown.

From the similar Western Mediterranean species with an atypical fourth tarsomere *S. virgo* can be distinguished as follows:

In *S. festivus* the dorsal surface has a leaden shine, the punctuation of pronotum and elytra is rather unevenly spaced, the hairs are shorter and distinctly less erect, the elytra are longer (1.05–1.09×, at suture) than the pronotum, the femora are of stouter build, and the shape of the spermatheca and the hind margins of the valvifers are different (Figs. 2 and 4).

In *S. cyanomelas*, which is similar in size, shine and punctuation, the elytra are distinctly (1.14×) longer than the pronotum and more strongly diverging posteriorly, the dorsal pubescence is distinctly shorter and not erect, the femora are stouter and darker, the hind margins of the valvifers are different, and the coils of the spermatheca are thinner and clearly more numerous (Figs. 7–8, PUTHZ, 1967a).

S. virgo is most similar and apparently most closely related to *S. bussacoensis*. The latter, too, has a bluish hue and the dorsal surface is covered with long and erect to semi-erect hairs, which are, however, somewhat denser. The female (coll. PUTHZ) which I studied is larger, it has stouter and darker legs, the elytra are wider and 1.08× longer than the pronotum, the second antennomere is almost half as long as the third, and the hind margin of the valvifers is different (Fig. 5). The spermatheca, which was examined, but unfortunately lost during the process of mounting it on a slide, is more strongly coiled (about intermediate between *cyanomelas* and *virgo*), its terminal capsule not projecting out of the coiled duct (similar to *S. parcior limonensis* FAGEL; see Fig. 35 in DAUPHIN, 1994).

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