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A new *Deltomerus* from Syria (Coleoptera: Carabidae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Deltomerus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1850 from Syria is described: *D. dostali* sp.n.

Key words: Carabidae, Patrobinae, *Deltomerus*, new species, taxonomy, Syria.

Zusammenfassung

Eine neue Art der Gattung *Deltomerus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1850 wird aus Syrien beschrieben: *D. dostali* sp.n.

Introduction

The western Palaearctic genus *Deltomerus* MOTSCHULSKY, 1850 is distributed discontinuously throughout the Mediterranean to the Caucasus and the mountain systems of Iran. About 65 species (LÖBL & SMETANA 2003) have been described so far. The species belonging to *Deltomerus* are flightless, restricted to mountain areas and can be found next to melting snow fields and running water. Therefore, all species are endemics with very limited distribution.

No species was yet recorded from Syria. Four alpine species are known from the highest mountain areas in the north-eastern and south-eastern Turkey (LEDOUX 1976, HEINZ & LEDOUX 1987). The distribution of these species is shown in figure 1. Therefore it was rather surprising to find three specimens of *Deltomerus* in the material collected by Dr. Alexander Dostal in western Syria at a comparable low altitude (around 1000 m). The purpose of this paper is the description of this interesting new species, extending the distribution of *Deltomerus* significantly.

Deltomerus (s.str.) *dostali* sp.n. (Abb. 2-8)

Holotype: 1 ♂: "S/22, W-Syrien, Distr. Idlib, 10 km NE Salma, 08.05.2002, 1024 m, N35°37'03.6": E36°10'34.1", Barries, Dostal, Preiss" (col. A. Dostal). **Paratypes:** 1 ♀: idem, (col. A. Dostal). 1 ♂: "S/20, W-Syrien, Distr. Idlib, betw. Salma and Slempe, N35°37'03":E36°10'34", 1100 m, 6.5.2002, Barries, Dostal, Preiss" (col. M. Donabauer).

Diagnosis: This new species belongs to the genus *Deltomerus* as defined by ZAMOTAJLOV (1992) due to the following characters: Antennomere I bears several long setae, neck constriction rather shallow, vertex and temporae with numerous setae, tarsal upper surface ciliate. Furthermore, it belongs to the subgenus *Deltomerus* s.str., defined by unicolorous elytra and more prominent shoulders.

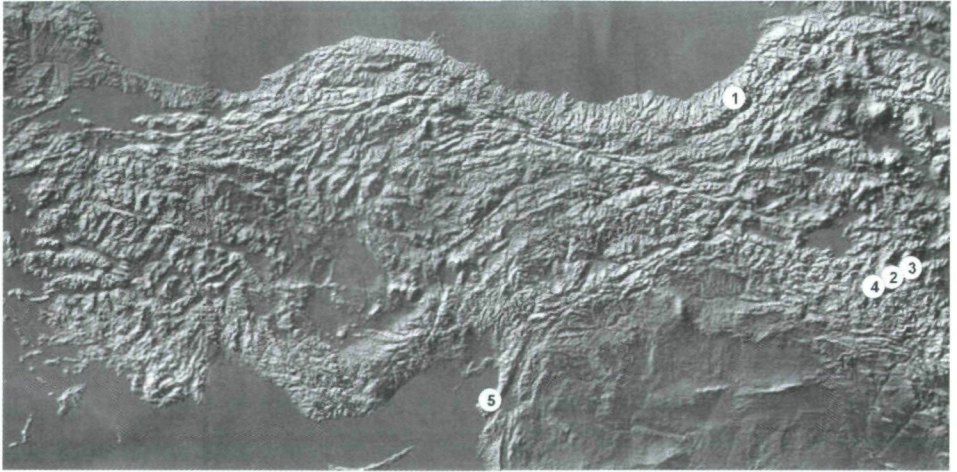


Fig. 1: Distribution map - *Deltomerus* in Turkey and Syria: (1) *D. dinci* LEDOUX, 1976; (2) *D. balachowski* LEDOUX, 1976; (3) *D. lodosi* LEDOUX, 1976; (4) *D. punctatus* HEINZ & LEDOUX, 1987; (5) *D. dostali* sp.n.

Description: Body reddish brown, antennae, mandibles, tibiae, and tarsi clearer; total length 10.5-11 mm. Habitus as in fig. 2.

Head ovate, 0.86-0.90 times as wide as pronotum; eyes normal sized; temples as long as eye diameter; neck constriction rather shallow; frontal furrows distinct, slightly divergent posteriorly; surface slightly punctuate around frontal furrows, temples and vertex with numerous and strong punctures and setae. Mentum as shown in fig. 7.

Pronotum cordate, 1.21-1.26 times as wide as long, faintly convex, strongly constricted posteriorly, lateral margin rounded in front and sinuate before hind angles, anterior and posterior margins nearly straight, front angles distinct and projected, hind angles right-angled; basal fovae well developed, punctuate, and ciliate; median line distinct, extended almost to both extremities, lateral margins with 4-6 anterior setae and several more posterior lateral setae situated before hind angles and one very long seta exactly in the hind angle. Pro-, meso-, metepisterna, and mesosternum punctuate, pro- and metasternum almost smooth. Tarsi with dorsal surface ciliate.

Elytra oblong-ovate, 1.58-1.60 times as long as wide and 1.49-1.56 times as wide as pronotum, almost flat, humeri rounded, humeral tooth indistinct; intervals flat, striae shallow, punctuate; all intervals irregularly punctuate and ciliate, microsculpture in form of fine transverse meshes and large punctures; interval 3 without clearly visible setiferous punctures (the same in all other intervals), because totally hidden between normal punctures. Hind wings strongly reduced but present, shorter than 1/3 of the elytral length.

Aedeagus as in fig. 3-6, bent at base, apex equally curved (in lateral view) and relatively broad (in dorsal view) and twisted toward left-side; endophallus with large, markedly sclerotized proximal copulatory piece, 2 apical tooth-shaped pieces; both parameres with short projections, without apical setae. Genapophysis as in fig. 8.

Etymology: This interesting new species is dedicated to Dr. Alexander Dostal, who collected the specimens.

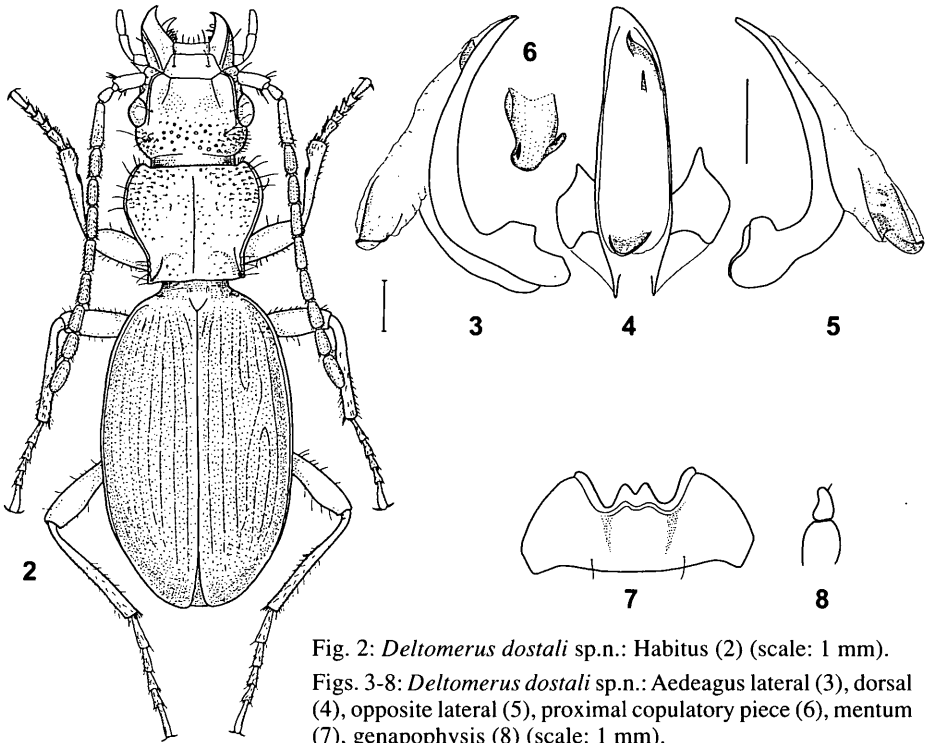


Fig. 2: *Deltomerus dostali* sp.n.: Habitus (2) (scale: 1 mm).

Figs. 3-8: *Deltomerus dostali* sp.n.: Aedeagus lateral (3), dorsal (4), opposite lateral (5), proximal copulatory piece (6), mentum (7), genapophysis (8) (scale: 1 mm).

Recognition: This new species can easily be separated from all Turkish species (which do not seem to be closely related) by the much stronger punctuation and ciliation of pronotum, vertex, and elytra, the robust habitus, the shape of pronotum, the completely rounded shoulders with indistinct humeral tooth, lack of stronger dorsal punctures with seta in intervals of elytra, lack of seta at the apex of parameres, and the high number of setae at the lateral margin of the pronotum. Furthermore, the more parallel shape of aedeagus in dorsal view and the structures of the endophallus enable a clear separation from *D. punctatus* (both species share punctuation of elytra). The descriptions and figures of the Turkish species (LEDOUX 1976, HEINZ & LEDOUX 1987) are very detailed and need not to be repeated here.

Deltomerus dostali shares many relevant characters with *D. punctatissimus* FAIRMAIRE, 1859, from Algeria, which seems to be much closer related to it than the Turkish species because of the highly punctuate and ciliate surface of head, pronotum and elytra, the general form of elytra and pronotum, chetotaxy, the color, and the ripicolous way of life. *D. punctatissimus* can be separated easily by the following characters: 1) broader pronotum, >1.3 times as wide as long, 2) less rounded sides of pronotum, and 3) the enormous distributional gap (aedeagus not dissected, because only female specimens available).

Habits: All specimens have been collected at night on the border of small rivers. The specimens were active and running on gravel. This is very contrasting to the high alpine habits of the Turkish species (border of glaciers and snowfields).

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