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NOTES ON SEVERAL CERAMBYCIDAE (COLEOPTERA) FROM ISRAEL, WITH DESCRIPTION OF *PSEUDOBOLIVARITA NEGEVENSIS* N. GEN., N. SP.

(Insecta Coleoptera Cerambycidae)

Riassunto

[*Note su alcuni Cerambycidae (Coleoptera) di Israele, con descrizione di* Pseudobolivarita negevensis *n. gen., n. sp.*].
Gli autori descrivono *Pseudobolivarita negevensis* nuova specie appartenente ad un genere inedito della tribu Obriini, scoperta nel deserto del Negev in Israele. Il nuovo genere è prossimo a *Bolivarita* Escalera, 1914, genere monospecifico endemico del Marocco sud occidentale. Se ne distingue agevolmente per le elitre fortemente accorciate (lasciano scoperti gli ultimi due segmenti addominali), per l'apice dei palpi acuminato, la punteggiatura del pronoto e delle elitre, ecc.
Inoltre, in base all'esame del materiale conservato presso l'Università di Tel Aviv o raccolto personalmente, segnalano le seguenti specie, interessanti o nuove per la fauna di Israele: *Cortodera kochi* Pic, 1935, *Stictoleptura heydeni* (Ganglbauer, 1889), *Molorchus juglandis* Sama, 1982, *Poecilium rufipes syriacum* (Pic, 1891), *Crossotus xanthoneurus* Sama, 2000 (= *C. palaestinensis* Breuning, in litteris), *Saperda quercus ocellata* Abeille de Perrin, 1895.

Abstract

Pseudobolivarita negevensis, a new genus and a new species belonging to the tribe Obriini, is described from southern Israel. The new genus is closely related to *Bolivarita* Escalera, 1914 (type species: *B. oculata* Escalera, 1914) from south-western Morocco, from which it can immediately be distinguished by its strongly abbreviated elytra (not covering the last two tergites) and the last segment of maxillary palpi pointed at apex.
Further, the following species are recorded as new or interesting for Israel: *Stictoleptura heydeni* (Ganglbauer, 1889) (previously mentioned as *Leptura rufa* Brullé), *Molorchus juglandis* Sama, 1982, *Poecilium rufipes syriacum* (Pic, 1891) and *Saperda quercus ocellata* Abeille de Perrin, 1895. Finally, according to the type series, *Crossotus palaestinensis* Breuning, in litteris = *Crossotus xanthoneurus* Sama, 2000 (described from Jordan; a new record for Israel and Egypt: Sinai).

Key words: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, *Pseudobolivarita*, *Crossotus*, new genus, new species, new records.

Cortodera kochi Pic, 1935

An endemic species to Israel (type locality: Kiryat Anavim), apparently not recorded since many years (BODENHEIMER, 1937). We can add the following localities: Judean Hills: Qiryat Anavim, 5.IV.1941, leg. H. Bytinski-Salz; Upper Galilee: Mt. Kfir, m 850, 29.IV/17.V.1996, leg. E. Orbach, G. Sama; idem, 24-29.IV.1998, leg. E. Orbach; idem, 3.V.2003, leg. E. Orbach; Mt. Hermon; Biq'at Man, m 1450, 10.V.1996, leg. B. Orbach, G.Sama; 10.V.2002, leg. E. Orbach.

Stictoleptura heydeni (Ganglbauer, 1889)
? Leptura ustulata: BODENHEIMER, 1937: 145.
Leptura rufa: HEYROVSKY, 1954: 394; BYTINSKI-SALZ, 1956: 214.
We have studied the unique specimen recorded from Israel, a female labelled as follows: "Pardes Channah / Palestine / 7.4.1946 / leg. Bytinski-Salz" (partly printed and handwritten by the collector); "Leptura bipunctata var. / G.E. Bryant det." (handwritten). The specimen, identified and recorded as a new species from Israel (under the name *Leptura rufa* Brullé) by HEYROVSKY (1954) and preserved in the collections of the University of Tel Aviv, is in fact a specimen of *Stictoleptura heydeni* (Ganglbauer, 1889), a new record for Israel.

Pseudobolivarita n. gen. (Fig. 1)

Type species. *P. negevensis* Sama & Orbach n. sp.

Etymology. From the closely related genus *Bolivarita* Escalera, 1914, endemic to southern Morocco.

Description. Head: eyes globosely, very large and protruding, coarsely faceted; eye-lobes deeply excised and very closely approximate at vertex; antennal tubercles slightly prominent, separated by a large, median longitudinal groove; antennae long and slender, gradually thinner toward the apex, 7th segment reaching beyond the tip of the elytra, 9th segment reaching the tip of the abdomen; 1st segment strongly concave and shining on its upper side. Pronotum sub-hexagonal, longer than broad, lateral margin distinctly expanded and roundly tuberculate at middle, disc with a median longitudinal carina and two lateral swellings, somewhat joined to each other at both sides of the carina. Elytra, at base, broader than pronotum at its widest point, distinctly narrowed posteriorly behind shoulders which are well pronounced, distinctly abbreviated, only twice as long as their width at shoulders, slightly dehiscent and impressed in the apical third, apices obtusely rounded. Legs long and slender, all femora not expanded; hind femora, extended backwards, exceeding the elytral apex; hind tibiae flattened and slightly sinuate; front- and mid-tarsi short and stout, hind tarsi longer and slender; first segment of front and mid tarsi hardly as long as combined length of the two following segments, first segment of hind tarsi 1,4 - 1,5 times as long as the two following segments together.

Fore and mid coxal cavities open, prosternal process very thin, ventral surface of body with short recumbent setae; some erect setae are only present on the prosternum; all sternites shining, nearly glabrous.

The new genus is very closely related to *Bolivarita* Escalera, 1914, a monospecific genus endemic from south-western Morocco, from which it differs only in its strongly abbreviated elytra (not covering the last two tergites) and the last segment of maxillary palpi which is pointed at apex. In *Bolivarita*, the elytra completely cover the abdomen and the last segment of maxillary palpi is apically truncate. The diagnosis of the new genus would be completed by the study of females, currently unknown. This is likely to enable assessment of the taxonomic relationship with *Bolivarita*.

Pseudobolivarita gen. nov. shows some affinity with *Iranobrium* Villiers, 1967, but this genus is very distinct from *Pseudobolivarita* on account of its pronotum being only slightly expanded laterally, lacking lateral tubercles and discal swellings, less protruding eye lobes, 1st segment of all tarsi as long as the 2nd and 3rd together and the tomentose first visible sternite.

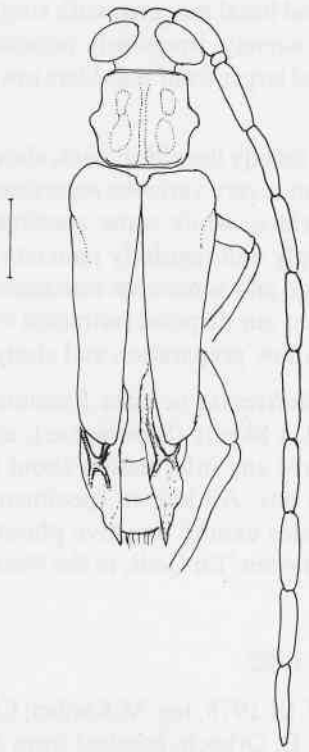

Fig. 1 - *Pseudobolivarita negevensis* n. gen., n. sp., male, habitus (schematic). Scale: 1 mm.

Pseudobolivarita negevensis n. sp. (Fig. 1)

Type series. Holotype ♂: Israel, Arava Valley: Hazeva, 3.IX.2000, I. Yarom & V. Kravchenko leg.; paratypes: 2 ♂♂: Israel, 'En Gedi, 16.VIII.1957, Hebr. Univ., J. Wahrman leg.; 2 ♂♂: Israel, Arava Valley: Hazeva, 3.IX.2000, I. Yarom & V. Kravchenko leg.; 4 ♂♂: Israel; 'En Zin, 27.II.2001, V. Chikatunov; 21 ♂♂: Israel, Arava Valley: Ne'ot haKikkar, light traps, 29.IX.2002, Y. Dorchin leg..
Holotype and paratypes are deposited in coll. University of Tel Aviv; paratypes also in coll. Y. Dorchin, E. Orbach, G. Sama.

Etymology. From the Negev desert in southern Israel.

Description of the Holotype. Length : 7 mm (measured as far as pygidium); colour dark brown, shining; head, pronotum and legs with long brown erect hairs, elytra covered with sparse short oblique erect setae. Head, on temples, neck and between eyes, sparsely and moderately deeply punctured. Pronotum sub-hexagonal, distinctly bordered at the front and basal margins, laterally expanded, with a distinct median tubercle at each side and two elevations on the disk at each side of a median longitudinal carina, which is chiefly visible on the mid of pronotum. Pronotum coarsely punctate at sides, very densely and finely microsculptured at the middle, before the front and basal margins, with single very large punctures on the discal swellings. Elytra coarsely, irregularly punctate; punctures very sparse and shallow at base, deeper and larger from shoulders toward apex; sparsely clothed with sub erect brown setae.

Variability. Some paratypes, mostly the oldest ones, show a paler yellowish-brown coloration. Elytral puncturation is very variable: sometimes punctures are uniformly distributed on the elytral surface, while some specimens (mainly among those from Ne'ot haKikar) are deeply and regularly punctate as far as the apical third, where punctures are very large and somewhat reticulate.
The rigidity of all specimens at our disposal (attracted by light traps and probably killed with alcohol) did not allow preparation and study of genital structures.

Distribution and biology. *Bolivarita oculata* Escalera 1914, develops in dead twigs of *Argania spinosa* (L.) Skeels (Sapotaceae), endemic tree of south-western Morocco; we do not have any information about the possible host plant of *Pseudobolivarita negevensis* nov. All known specimens were males attracted to light traps; possibly the females exhibit negative phototropism. Its geographical range covers a desert area between 'En Gedi, in the North, Hazeva and 'En Zin in the South.

Molorchus juglandis Sama, 1982

Upper Galilee: Nahal Keziv, 5.III.1978, leg. M.Kaplan; Carmel Ridge: Haifa, Nahal Si'ah, 19.III.2000, leg. E. &. B. Orbach; hatched from *Morus nigra*.
Described from southern Turkey, recently recorded from Lebanon (SAMA & RAPUZZI,

2000); a new record for Israel.

Poecilium rufipes syriacum (Pic, 1891)

Mt. Hermon: m 1600, 20.VI.1993, leg. V.Chikatunov; Biq'at Man, m 1450, 14.V.1996, adult in pupal cell on *Crataegus* sp., leg. G. Sama; idem, 25.V.1999, leg. L. Friedman; Nahal 'Ar'ar, m 1450, 25.V.2001, leg. B. Orbach; idem, m 1600, 7.VI.2002, leg. E. Orbach.
Known from southern Turkey, Syria, Lebanon; a new record for Israel.

Crossotus xanthoneurus Sama, 2000

= *Crossotus palaestinensis* Breuning, in litteris.
Bytinski-Salz sent for study some specimens of *Crossotus* sp. to S. Breuning, who correctly identified them as belonging to a new species and sent back to Bytinski-Salz all specimens except one (see below), suggesting the name *C. palaestinensis*. According to a letter dated July 10th 1976, Bytinski-Salz wrote to Breuning ".. I intend to publish a supplement to my Cerambycidae of Israel 1956 and than will include also the description and photo of the new species which I will of course publish in your name, as you as the author !.." Although all specimens were marked as types by Bytinski-Salz himself, who added red (Holotype and Allotype) and blue (Paratypes) labels, the new species was never published and remained "in litteris". Thank to the courtesy of dr. L. Freiberg, we were able to study the type series of *C. palaestinensis* which includes the following specimens presently preserved in the University of Tel Aviv: 1 ♂: Palestine: "Kurnub [currently Mamshit in Central Negev], 14.VI. leg. Bytinski-Salz" (printed + handwritten by Bytinski-Salz); "Crossotus palaestinensis mihi typ. / Breuning. det." (printed + handwritten by Breuning); "Crossotus palaestinensis Breun. / Holotypus ex coll. Bytinski-Salz"; 1 ♀: same labels, but "Allotypus"; 1 ♂: same labels but a determination label of Breuning is lacking. Moreover, there is a further ♀, labelled "Sinai: Nugra, 2.V.1979", not examined by Breuning. Finally, there is one ♀ labelled "Israel / Eilat / 20.XI.78 / D. Shalmon" and bearing the determination label "Crossotus palaestinensis Breun. / Paratypus / ex coll. Bytinski-Salz", but apparently not studied by Breuning. This specimen belongs, in reality, to *Crossotus strigifrons* Fairmaire, 1886. A further "Paratype" of *C. palaestinensis* was retained by Breuning and it is now preserved in the collection of the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève. *Crossotus xanthoneurus* Sama, is here firstly recorded both from Israel and Egypt.

Remark. Mamshit (Mamshit National Park) is the current name of one of the ancient towns of Nabaties in Central Negev, which was called Kurnub until the 50th. Today the remnants of the town and the surrounding are called Mamshit, or Horvot Mamshit (=Hirbet [arabic], ruins, remnants of Mamshit).

Saperda quercus ocellata Abeille de Perrin, 1895

Upper Galilee: Mt. Meron, 19.V.1973, leg. M. Kaplan; Mt. Kfir, m 800, 11/14.V.1996, leg. G. Sama & E. Orbach; idem, 16.V.1998, 22.V.1999, 27.IV.2001, leg. E. Orbach; Miron, 11.V.1996, leg. G. Sama; Golan Heights: Nimrod, 11.V.1996, one larva on *Quercus* sp., adult not hatched, leg. G. Sama.
Known from southern Turkey, Syria and Jordan; a new record for Israel.

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