

Fabio Talamelli

***Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. from Iran**

(Insecta Coleoptera Curculionidae)

Riassunto

[*Bangasternus iranensis* nuova specie dell'Iran (Insecta Coleoptera Curculionidae)]

Nella presente nota viene descritto *Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. dell'Iran, facilmente riconoscibile dalle altre specie del genere per il corpo di colore nero, interamente rivestito da lunghe setole sollevate e lanuginose e da setole coricate bifide e trifide.

Abstract

Description of *Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. from Iran, easily recognizable from all other species of the genus by its black body entirely covered with long erect fluffy bristles, and bifid or trifid recumbent hairs.

Key words: Coleoptera Curculionidae, Lixinae, *Bangasternus iranensis*, new species, Iran.

Introduction

Among *Bangasternus* material in my collection I discovered three specimens of a new species, described here below. The genus *Bangasternus* was revised by COLONNELLI & WHITEHEAD (1990).

***Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp.** (Fig. 1)

Material studied. Holotype ♂, Iran, Gilan prov., Tutrabon near Rasht, 36° 83' N, 49° 66' E, 5 VI 2009, leg. Walter Grosser. Paratypes: 1 ♀, Iran, Lorestan prov., Tootmashour, Goor Kash 33° 41' N, 48° 90' E, 1995 m 3 VI 2009, leg. Walter Grosser; 1 ♀, Iran, Esfahan prov. 40 Km SE Aligudars 35° 17' N, 50° 05' E, 1 VI 2009, leg. Walter Grosser. All specimens are in author's collection, deposited in the Natural History Centre of Valconca at San Giovanni Marignano, near Rimini. (Centro Studi Naturalistici Valconca in San Giovanni in Marignano RN).

Diagnosis. Body black, elytra elongate, interstriae flat, roughly punctured, pronotum with puncturation of two kinds, body covered by long erect bristles, and with bifid or trifid hairs regularly covering the integument.

Description of the holotype. Length 5.0 mm. Integument black; antennae, tarsi and apices of tibiae reddish.

Body completely covered by long erect bristles, denser on the dorsal surface of rostrum, at sides of pronotum and elytra, and at sides of abdomen, and with bifid or trifid recumbent hairs regularly covering the whole integument.

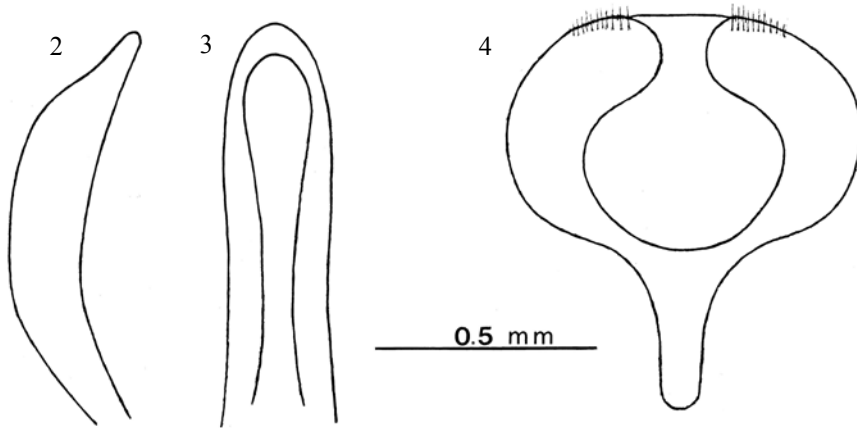


Fig. 1 - *Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. (holotype ♂). Habitus.

Rostrum 1.6 times longer than wide, slightly conical and strongly tapering before apex, upper surface slightly concave with a low longitudinal carina at middle and shallow grooves at sides of carina; puncturation coarse and confluent in wrinkles. Frons concave with a deep interocular punctiform impression. Antennae inserted near the pre-apical narrowing of rostrum. Scape shorter than the width of rostrum at the insertion of antennae. First article squarish, second article narrower and slightly shorter, following articles transverse and progressively widened; club fusiform, elongate, as long as funicle.

Pronotum 1.3 times wider than long, puncturation of two different kinds formed by coarse and deep punctures interspersed with finer ones; sides feebly rounded, strongly constricted toward apex; base bisinuate, basal angles right.

Elytra 1.6 times longer than wide, gently widened after the middle; humeral callus fairly developed, preapical callus hardly detectable. Elytral striae punctate, furrowed before apex, intervals flat, wider than striae, densely and wrinkly punctured.



Figs 2 - 3. *Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. (holotype ♂).

2: Aedeagus in lateral view.

3: Aedeagus in ventral view.

Fig. 4. *Bangasternus iranensis* n. sp. (paratype ♀). Ventral spiculum.

Legs stout, femura unarmed, outer side of tibiae almost straight, inner side slightly bisinuate. Tarsal articles elongate, third segment fairly bilobed, claws apparently of equal length, connate at base. Aedeagus rounded at apex (Figs 2 and 3)

Description of paratypes. The two female paratypes show negligible differences from the holotype. Ventral spiculum with lateral arms almost at right angle at base and strongly bent toward middle (Fig. 4)

Etymology. Named after the country of origin.

Host plants. Not known.

Comparative notes. The new species could be mistaken for *Bangasternus orientalis* (Capiomont, 1873) of small size as well, but it is recognizable by the claws, apparently of the same length, and by the long erect bristles on the whole body integument. Such characters are similar in *B. siculus*, which has erect bristles on rostrum and pronotum, but the new species differs in having the pronotum with sides almost straight, elytra less parallel and body covered by bifid or trifid hairs.

References

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