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**Summary of current knowledge of Italian *Octavius* Fauvel, 1873.
Notes on *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 and a new synonymy ¹**

(Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)

Abstract

A new record from Trentino of *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 is reported and the genitalia of the species are described and illustrated. The data concerning the Italian *Octavius* are summarized. The following synonymy is proposed: *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 = *Octavius castrii euganensis* Coiffait, 1972.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Euaesthetinae, *Octavius*, Italy, new record, synonymy.

Riassunto

[*Sommario delle attuali conoscenze sugli Octavius Fauvel, 1873 italiani. Note su Octavius castrii Coiffait, 1963 ed una nuova sinonimia (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae)*]

Una nuova località di *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 in Trentino viene citata e vengono descritti ed illustrati segmento genitale maschile ed edeago della specie. I dati relativi agli *Octavius* dell'Italia vengono riassunti. Viene proposta la seguente sinonimia: *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 = *Octavius castrii euganensis* Coiffait, 1972.

Results

Currently the Palaearctic *Octavius* Fauvel, 1873 are 72, many of which occur in France (see for example COIFFAIT, 1958, 1959; OROUSSET, 1981) and Corsica (see for example OROUSSET, 1982, 1986). Nine of these species are found in Italy.

Four of them are found in Sardinia (FANCELLO et al., 2009; FANCELLO & LEO, 2015):

- *O. doderoi* Coiffait, 1965 (holotype from Teulada; Iglesias (CI), Masua; Nuxis (CI), Campanasissa; Santadi (CI); Capoterra (CA), Gutturu Mannu; Quartu Sant'Elena (CA), Cala Regina; Sarroch (CA), Rio Monte Nieddu, Monti dei Sette Fratelli (CA); Sinnai (CA), Monti dei 7 Fratelli, San Pietro; Sinnai (CA), Solanas; Villaputzu (CA), Castello di Quirra; Villasimius (CA), Punta Porceddus).
- *O. sardous* Coiffait, 1965 (holotype from Aritzo; Fluminimaggiore;

¹ 301st contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae.

Carceghe (SS), Desulo (NU), Lula (NU), Monte Albo; Baunei (OG), Genna Arramene; Baunei (OG), Pedra; Gairo (OG), Marina, loc. Is Piscina; Bauladu (OR); Samugheo (OR), Castello di Medusa; Arbus (VS), Genna 'e Frongi; Gonnosfanadiga (VS); Fluminimaggiore (CI); Iglesias (CI), Passo Genna Bogai; Castiadas (CA); Dolianova (CA); Villaputzu (CA), Castello di Quirra; Villacidro (Medio Campidano prov.), Foresta Demaniale di Montimannu).

- *O. raymondi* Saulcy, 1878 (holotype from Bonnari; Romana (SS), Rio Melas, Bauladu (OR), Geremeas (CA), Teulada (CA); Domusnovas (Carbonia-Iglesias prov.), Gutturu di Monte Nieddu.

- *O. degiovannii* Fancello & Leo, 2016 (holotype from Baunei (OG), Bacu 'e Muru; Baunei (OG), Nuraghe Coe e Serra.

One from the island of Giglio: *O. doriai* Poggi, 1977 (holotype from Giglio).

One from the island of Pantelleria : *O. vitalei cossyrensis* Coiffait, 1965 (holotype from Pantelleria).

Four from the Italian peninsula:

- *O. vitalei* Bernhauer, 1908 ((holotype from Sicily: Messina; Calabria; North Africa); ssp. *abruzzensis* Coiffait, 1965 (holotype from Abruzzo: Chieti; Latium, Basilicata).

- *O. castrii* Coiffait, 1963 (holotype from Veneto: Mt Spitz) (see the other localities in the text).

- *O. hervei* Ochs, 1949 (holotype from Sospel in France; Italian Maritime Alps: Nava).

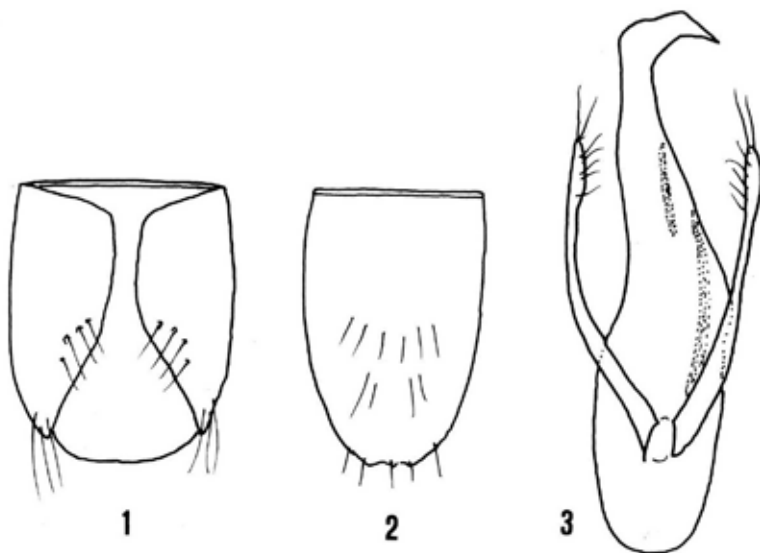
- *O. italus* Fauvel, 1907 (holotype from Latium: Oriolo Romano).

Octavius castrii was described from Mt Spitz in the Lessini Mts (Veneto: Recoaro, Vicenza Prov.). It is the only known *Octavius* in the central and eastern part of northern Italy, since *O. hervei* occupying the French and Italian Maritime Alps. It belongs to the group of *O. transadriaticus* which includes also some species present at the eastern border of Italy, currently in Slovenia (*O. transadriaticus* Breit, 1911, *O. tergestinus* Coiffait, 1963 and *O. puthzi* Pace, 1983).

COIFFAIT (1972) describes *O. euganensis* from Colli Euganei and Mts Berici which is currently considered ssp. of *castrii* based on characters that seem to me insignificant and which I believe can fall within the range of variability of the species. This belief is confirmed by the fact that all the known places of the species belong to a well defined territory that occupies part of Veneto and Southern Trentino.

For this reason I propose the following synonymy: *Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963 = *Octavius castrii euganensis* Coiffait, 1972, **syn. n.**

COIFFAIT (1984) in his fifth volume on the Staphylinidae of the Western Palearctic region confuses the figures of the aedeagi attributed to *O. castrii* and *O. castrii euganensis*. It therefore seems to me useful to propose the figures of the genitalia of *O. castrii* (Figs 1-3), even if the most indicative portion of the aedeagus has already been represented by PACE (1983).



Figs 1-3. *Octavius castrii* Coiffait: 1: Male genital segment in ventral view; 2: Sternite of the same; Aedeagus (total length: 0.033 mm).

ZANETTI et al. (2016) report *Octavius castrii* from Monte Baldo; Lessinia; Bolca: La Pesciara; Castelveo; Fongara; Grezzana: Vajo dei Casotti; Mezzane di Sotto; Monte Pastello; Monteforte d'Alpone; Peri: Malga Campo; San Giovanni Ilarione: C.Cengia, Cengia, Monte Bellocca; Soave; Vajo dei Falconi; Vajo di Squaranto: Squaranto; Val Fraselle: Alar; Valle d'Alpone: Castelveo-Valle Sponde; Valle di Revolto; Valle Valpantena: Ceredo; in hill forest (*ostryetum*), mountain forest (*Fagus*, *Rhododendron hirsutum*), coppiced mixed forest, mixed forest, mountain forest (*Picea*); in litter, base of tree, base of rocks, soil and roots of *Rubus*, debris.

PACE (1983) reports the species from Lessini Mts, Mt Spitz, Fongara, Valdagno, Mt di Malo, Soave, Monteforte d'Alpone, Mt Baldo, Caltrano, Mt Grappa and Trentino: Grigno, Levico and Rovereto.

***Octavius castrii* Coiffait, 1963**

New record: Trentino, Vallarsa, Pian delle Fugazze (Trento), 1200 m, L. Colacurcio 2.VII.2018, 1 ♂ (coll. Bordoni).

Distribution. Central southern Veneto and southern Trentino.

Remarks. *Octavius* are usually quite sporadic and it is not rare that unique specimens are collected. On the contrary, *O. castrii* seems to be the most widespread and quite common species of the genus in Italy.

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