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Oxylepus boroveci, a new species from Tunisia
(Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Oxylepus boroveci*, the second Palaearctic species of the genus is described from Tunisia. It is not close to the *O. deflexicollis* BOH., the only Palaearctic congener, its relatives (mostly undescribed) occur in SW South Africa and Namibia.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, *Coleoptera*, *Chrysomelidae*, *Cassidinae*, *Oxylepus*, Tunisia.

The genus *Oxylepus* DESBROCHERS, 1884 comprises only five species, distributed in two widely separated regions (BOROWIEC 1999). Two species are known from the Mediterranean Subregion, Arabian Pen. and Somalia, three remainder species were described from Cape Province in South Africa, and from Namibia. In recent materials I found several new species from South Africa (they will be described in my third volume of the monograph of Afrotropical *Cassidinae*, now in preparation), and a curious new species from Tunisia. Surprisingly, the new species from Tunisia is not close to both northern species - *O. deflexicollis* (BOHEMAN, 1862) and *O. kossmati* SPAETH, 1901, but at first glance is related to the group of undescribed species from southern Africa. The group of southern species and the new species from Tunisia are well characterized by modified elytra, with deep impressions and/or gibbosities.

Oxylepus boroveci n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Named in honour of Czech colleague and beetle collector, R. BOROVEC, who collected the new species in Tunisia.

DIAGNOSIS

It is well distinguished from W Palaearctic *O. deflexicollis* and Arabian *O. kossmati*, as well as from three described southern African species by its elytra possessing deep, transverse impressions behind humeral calli, and slightly swollen elytral surface before the impression, between humeral callus and scutellum (all congeners have elytra without impression and, except humeral calli, no swollen parts on elytron). A number of undescribed species from South Africa have similarly impressed elytra but they differ in coarsely punctate pronotum (finely punctate, sometimes appearing impunctate in *O. boroveci*). South African species have usually much convex, sometimes gibbous, pronotal disc, some of them have elytra with two to six tubercles.

DESCRIPTION

Length: 3.30-3.90 mm, width: 2.65-3.20 mm, length of pronotum: 1.55-1.80 mm, width of pronotum: 2.20-2.50 mm, length/width ratio: 1.22-1.32, width/length of pronotum ratio: 1.39-1.48. Body oval, extremely convex.

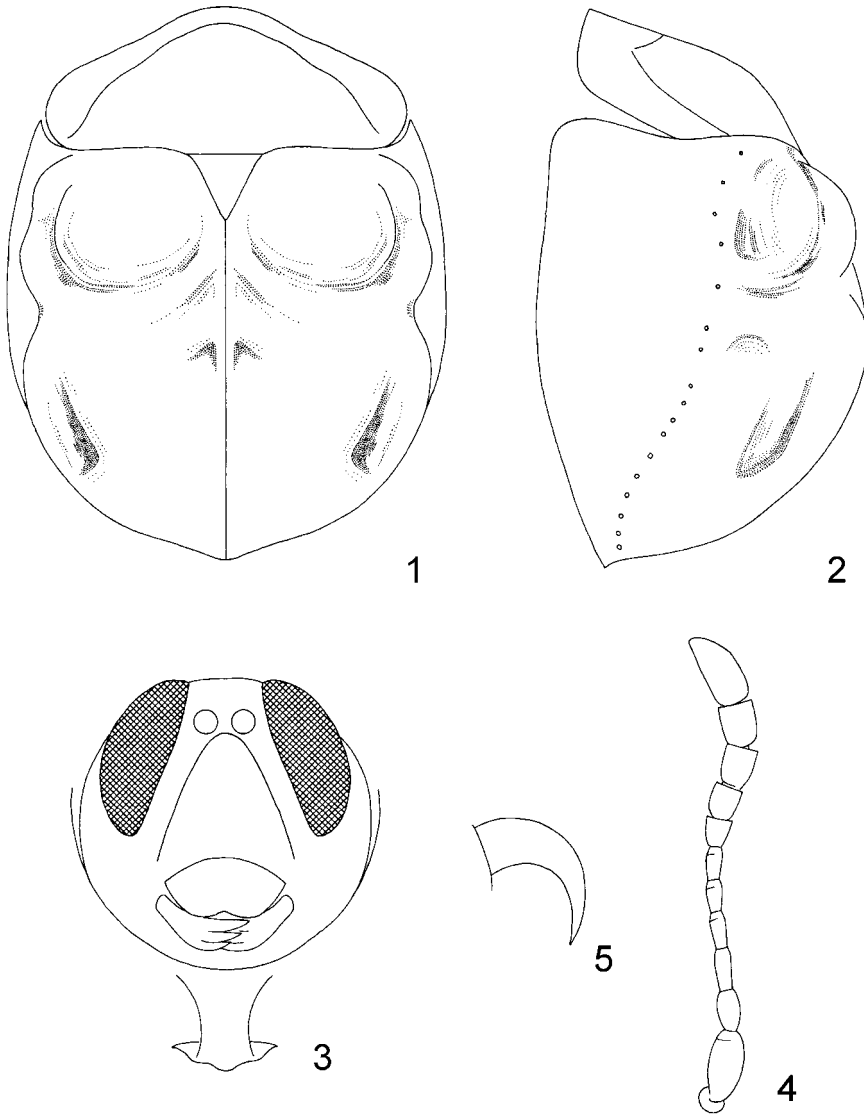
Body uniformly pale yellow.

Pronotum reversely semicircular. Anterior margin straight to slightly concave, anterior corners well marked but obtuse. Disc only slightly convex, with fine, sparse punctation, in some specimens appears impunctate, its surface from slightly dull to glabrous.

Scutellum regularly triangular, as long as to slightly longer than wide, smooth, impunctate. Elytra as wide as pronotum. Each elytron in 1/3 length with arch-shaped, curved posterad, deep, transverse impression, beginning slightly behind humeral callus, ending close to apex of scutellum. Area between the impression and anterior margin of elytron slightly swollen. Humeral callus swollen, prominent. Punctation of disc moderately coarse, mostly irregular, only in apical part of disc punctures along suture and along disc border tend to form 2-3 more or less regular rows. Distance between punctures from as wide as to twice wider than puncture diameter. Surface between punctures from slightly dull to glabrous. Marginal row well visible in anterior half of elytron, in posterior half partly vanished between irregular punctures of disc and marginalia. Border between disc and marginalia shallowly impressed, in posthumeral area the impression slightly deeper than in posterior part of elytra. Explanate margin very broad, as wide as 2/3 width of each elytron, strongly declivous, perpendicular to the surface of abdomen, its surface irregularly punctate, slightly finer and sparser than on disc. Humeral angles strongly protruding anterad, angulate.

Clypeus broad, c. 1.4 times as wide as long. Clypeal grooves fine but distinct, converging in triangle. Surface of clypeus glabrous, shallowly, sparsely punctate. Antennae stout, length ratio of antennal segments: 100:56:62:50:44:44:38:50:53:62:112.

Claws simple. Ventrites without diagnostic characters.



1-5. *Oxylepus boroveci*: 1 - dorsal, 2 - lateral, 3 - head and prosternum, 4 - antenna, 5 - tarsal claw

MATERIAL

Holotype: "Tunisia c. or., Sebikhet En Noual, (N Gabes), 70 m, 4.V.1998, lgt. R. Borovec" (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland); 9 paratypes: the same data; 8 paratypes: "Tunisia, 40 km S Maknassy, Skhira Sebkheth en Noual, 4 V 98, Meregalli" (preserved at the Department of Systematic Zoology and Zoogeography, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland, and in collections of F. KANTNER, Lipi, Czech Republic, and J. VOŘIŠEK, Jirkov, Czech Republic).

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REFERENCE

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