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A review of the genus *Solariola* Flach, 1908 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae, Peritelini)

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Abstract

The species of the Italian endemic weevil genus, *Solariola* Flach, 1908 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae), are revised, the genus is re-diagnosed, re-described and transferred from the tribe Otioryhynchini to Peritelini. Three new species are described: *Solariola angelae* n. sp. and *Solariola pesarinii* n. sp. from Sicily, and *Solariola fraterna* n. sp. from Calabria. *Solariola hirtula* (A. Solari & F. Solari, 1923) is considered a good species and not a subspecies of *Solariola gestroi* (A. Solari & F. Solari, 1904), bringing the total number of species considered valid to 9. All the previously described species are re-described in detail. Distribution, ecology, maps and figures are provided for all the species of the genus, as well as a species-level identification key and a checklist of all known species.

Key words: Peritelini, Sicily, taxonomy, typification

Riassunto

Vengono revisionate tutte le specie del genere *Solariola* Flach, 1908 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Entiminae), endemico italiano. Il genere viene ridiagnosticato, ridescritto e trasferito dalla tribù degli Otioryhynchini a quella dei Peritelini. Tre nuove specie sono descritte: *Solariola angelae* n. sp. e *Solariola pesarinii* n. sp. della Sicilia, *Solariola fraterna* n. sp. della Calabria. *Solariola hirtula* (A. Solari & F. Solari, 1923) è considerata buona specie e non una sottospecie di *Solariola gestroi* (A. Solari & F. Solari, 1904). Il numero totale di specie valide viene così portato a 9. Tutte le specie del genere sono illustrate e per ciascuna vengono forniti dati sulla distribuzione e l'ecologia. Viene inoltre fornita una chiave di identificazione a livello di specie.

Introduction

Contrary to common belief, one of the most adequately studied regions of the world, Europe, is still an important reservoir of unknown species (Fontaine *et al.*, 2012), in particular in species-rich countries like Italy. The *Fauna Europea* database shows Italy as having the largest number of animal species in Europe (Stoch, 2008), moreover Italy is one of the core spots of the Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot, a unique mosaic of different terrestrial habitats containing an enormous range of species (Cuttelod *et al.*, 2008). Most of the Italian fauna (almost 98% if we consider marine fauna as well, and over 99% of land and freshwater) is made up of insects. Among insects more than 12,000 species (about the 30% of all Italian animal species) belong to the Coleoptera, and more than 1,600 of them are Curculionoidea (Stoch, 2008; Minelli, 2005). Among Coleoptera, Curculionoidea is probably the most diverse taxonomic group on earth, with Curculionidae representing the most diverse family with more than 51,000 species (Oberprieler *et al.*, 2007). The subfamily Entiminae, with more than 12,000 species described, is the largest group of weevils. Many genera of Entiminae are poorly studied, in particular those that are strictly localized in distribution. Field surveys aiming to develop a better knowledge of Sicilian insects have recently collected several rare and sometimes new species (e.g.: Baviera, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011; Baviera & Sparacio, 2002; Baviera & Liberti, 2010; Magrini & Baviera, 2011). During this research a special effort was made to study Curculionidae

species could be considered useful bioindicators of relatively natural and stable habitats. Further research focused on this genus will very likely identify additional new taxa of these small cryptic Coleoptera.

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