

NOTES ON SOME NEW OR POORLY KNOWN WEEVILS FROM SPAIN (COLEOPTERA, CURCULIONIDAE)

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Abstract: Six species of Curculionidae Curculioninae are reported for the first time from Spain. Four of them belong to the Meciniini: *Mecinus alboscuteallatus* (Hustache, 1913), *M. ictericus* (Gyllenhal, 1838), *M. reichei* Tournier, 1873, *M. seriatus* Jacquet, 1888, and two to the Tychiini: *Sibinia (Dichotychius) umbrosa* Desbrochers, 1907, *Tychius (Tychius) africanus* Franz, 1942. A brief differential diagnosis of closely related species present in Spain, with distribution and biological notes, when available, are given. *M. haemorrhoidalis* (H. Brisout, 1862) is confirmed for Spain.

Key words: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Meciniini, Tychiini, *Mecinus*, *Sibinia*, *Tychius*, Spain.

Notas sobre algunos gorgojos nuevos o mal conocidos de España (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

Resumen: Seis especies de Curculionidae Curculioninae se registran por primera vez de España. Cuatro de ellas pertenecen a los Meciniini: *Mecinus alboscuteallatus* (Hustache, 1913), *M. ictericus* (Gyllenhal, 1838), *M. reichei* Tournier 1873, *M. seriatus* Jacquet, 1888, y dos a los Tychiini: *Sibinia (Dichotychius) umbrosa* Desbrochers, 1907, *Tychius (Tychius) africanus* Franz, 1942. Se incluye un breve diagnóstico diferencial de las especies próximas presentes en España, su distribución y notas biológicas, cuando es posible. *M. haemorrhoidalis* (H. Brisout, 1862) se confirma para España.

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Meciniini, Tychiini, *Mecinus*, *Sibinia*, *Tychius*, España.

Introduction

In the last years we had the opportunity to study some Spanish specimens from public institutes and private collections, which belong to seven interesting species not yet reported from Spain according to a recent checklist (Alonso-Zarazaga, 2002). These species are treated below.

The acronyms used to identify the collections mentioned in the text are:

APCB: Coll. Attila Podlussány, Budapest, Hungary

AZCM: Coll. Miguel A. Alonso-Zarazaga, MNCN, Madrid, Spain

DEI: Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Münchenberg, Germany (L. Behne)

JSCP: Coll. Jaromir Strejček, Praha, Czech Republic

MNCN: General Collection, Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, Madrid, Spain

RBCS: Collezione Roman Borovec, Smidary, Czech Republic.

Results

Mecinus alboscuteallatus (Hustache)

Gymnetron alboscuteallatum Hustache, 1913: 390. Hoffmann, 1958: 1293. Lohse & Tischler, 1983: 266.

Mecinus alboscuteallatus (Hustache). Caldara, 2001: 183.

Spain: Castilla y León, Burgos, Barros de Briscia, IX.1967, leg. Ribes (1 ex., MNCN).

REMARKS: New to Spain. This species was described from specimens from Rhône-Alpes (Isère, Col de l'Arc, Massif du Vercors), from which the Spanish specimen do not show

differences. Hoffmann (1958) quoted *M. alboscuteallatus* also from other localities in south-eastern France (Hautes-Alpes, Alpes-Maritimes). Subsequently, this species was reported from Tirol in Austria (Horion, 1951; Heiss, 1971). We know this species also from the south-western part of Switzerland (Valais). Moreover Solari (1933) described the subspecies *atratus* of *M. alboscuteallatus* from specimens from Gran Sasso in Abruzzo (central Italy) on the basis of small differences from the typical form needing confirmation.

Its collection in northern Spain is very interesting and is a further proof that *M. alboscuteallatus* represents a relict species with Euro-Boreoalpine distribution (fig. 1).

The adults of both subspecies were collected on species of *Helianthemum* (Hustache, 1913; Hoffmann, 1958; Osella *et al.* 2005), whereas the specimens of the type series of the subspecies *atratus* emerged from seeds of *Plantago atrata* Hoppe (Solari, 1933), which is the genus of plants parasitized by all the closely related taxa of *Mecinus* with known biology.

Mecinus haemorrhoidalis (H. Brisout de Barneville)

Gymnetron haemorrhoidale H. Brisout de Barneville, 1862: 639.

Reitter, 1907: 24. Hoffmann, 1958: 1291.

Mecinus haemorrhoidalis (H. Brisout). Caldara *et al.* 2010: in press.

Spain: Andalucía, Cádiz, Pto. del Algarrobo, Jerez de la Frontera, 2.V.1992, leg. Alonso-Zarazaga (2 exx., AZCM); Andalucía, Cádiz, San Roque, 14.V.1984, leg. de Ferrer (4 exx., AZCM).

REMARKS: Confirmed for Spain. Already quoted from the Spanish province of Lérida: Les, Valle de Arán by Hustache

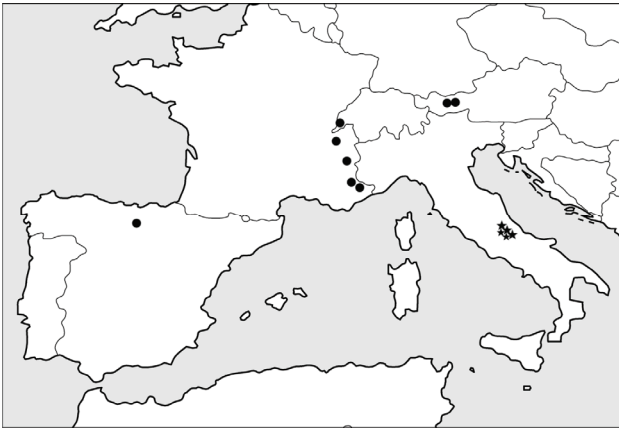


Fig. 1. Map showing confirmed localities for *Mecinus alboscuteclatus alboscuteclatus* (●) according to Horion (1951), Hoffmann (1958), Heiss (1971), and *M. alboscuteclatus atratulus* (★) according to Osella *et al.* (2005) and Caldara (personal data).

(1932, sub *G. variabile* ab. *haemorrhoidale*), later mentioned by Iglesias Iglesias (1922) and Hoffmann (1958), and mentioned also generally for Spain by Reitter (1907). Alonso-Zarazaga (2002) did not include it as a separate species because of the current synonymy with *M. variabilis* (Rosenhauer, 1856). The new localities extend the range to the furthest end of the Iberian Peninsula, so that a much wider distribution is to be expected.

This taxon, which was usually reported as a synonymous with *M. variabilis* (Rosenhauer, 1856), has been considered as a distinct species by Caldara *et al.* (in press) after the examination of its holotype. Brisout's name is available in the genus *Mecinus*, because the name *M. haemorrhoidalis* attributed to Stephens by Klima (1934) actually does not exist since Stephens always quoted Herbst as author of this taxon, although erroneously as a synonymous with *M. circulatus* (Marsham, 1802). Herbst's species belongs in *Hypera*.

This species, which is closely related to *M. seriatus* (see below), differs from *M. variabilis* by the rostrum which is distinctly dimorphic in sexes since much longer in the female, the bigger head and the wider body. We know *M. haemorrhoidalis* from southern Italy, Sicily, Malta, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. No biological data are reported. However it seems probable that its host plants are in the genus *Plantago*, which is the genus of plants parasitized by the closely related species, *M. seriatus* and *M. variabilis*.

***Mecinus ictericus* (Gyllenhal)**

Gymnetron ictericum Gyllenhal, 1838: 750. Reitter, 1907: 20.

Hoffmann, 1958: 1278, 1288. Smreczyński, 1976: 31. Lohse & Tischler, 1983: 266.

Mecinus ictericus (Gyllenhal). Caldara, 2001: 183.

Spain: Castilla y León, León, 10 km N Cistierna, Picos de Europa Mts., 12.V.2003, leg. Kresl (1, RBCS).

REMARKS: New to Spain. This species is widely distributed in central and south-eastern Europe, Caucasus and Anatolia reaching the southern France (departments of Gard and Hérault in the Languedoc-Roussillon region) in the West. Its collection in northern Spain further widens the distribution of this species.

This species, which lives on *Plantago indica* L., is closely related to the common *M. pascuorum* (Gyllenhal,

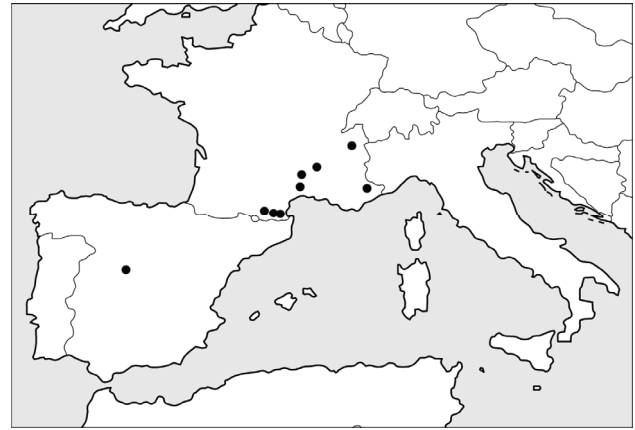


Fig. 2. Map showing confirmed localities for *Mecinus seriatus* (●) according to Tempère (1975) and Péricart (1989).

1813), from which it differs by the scales of the dorsal vestiture denser and covering nearly entirely the integuments and the profemora in the male with a distinctly smaller tooth.

***Mecinus reichei* Tournier**

Mecinus reichei Tournier, 1873: LXXXV. Tournier, 1874: 41. Reitter, 1907: 15.

Spain: Andalucía, Málaga environs, 12.IV.1990, leg. Keyval (1 ex., JSCP).

REMARKS: New to Spain. This taxon was previously known only from northern Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia). Therefore this collection is the first for Europe.

This species is easily distinguishable from the others living in Spain mainly by weakly convex, elongate, reddish elytra. No biological data are available.

***Mecinus seriatus* (Jacquet)**

Gymnetron seriatum Jacquet, 1889: XCVII. Tempère, 1975:

651. Péricart, 1989: 279, 282.

Mecinus seriatus (Jacquet). Caldara, 2001: 183.

Spain: Castilla y León, Avila, 18.VI.1987, leg. Podluszány (2 exx., APCB).

REMARKS: New to Spain. This taxon was considered as a synonym of *M. variabilis* (Rosenhauer, 1856) until Tempère (1975) carefully reported the differences between these two species. Up to now *M. seriatus*, which lives on various species of *Plantago* (*P. arenaria* Waldst. & Kit., *P. recurvata* L., *P. serpentina* Villars) was known from a few localities of the regions Rhône-Alpes, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Languedoc-Roussillon in southern France. Therefore its collection in northern Spain represents a very interesting datum, which considerably widens the area of distribution of this species (fig. 2).

M. seriatus is very closely related to *M. haemorrhoidalis* (H. Brisout de Barneville, 1862). From this species, it can be separated by the antennae that in the female is inserted closer to the base, at basal fourth, and with shorter scape, less than three times longer than wide.

***Sibinia (Dichotychius) umbrosa* Desbrochers des Loges**

Sibinia umbrosa Desbrochers des Loges, 1907: 103. Caldara, 1979: 86; 1987: 38.

Spain: Andalucía, Cádiz, 70 km N Doñana National Park, 16.VII.1993, leg. Suppantchitsch (2exx., DEI). The locality as labelled is absolutely useless and may in fact belong to a quite different province.

REMARKS: New to Spain. This rare species was previously known from a few specimens collected in Morocco (Caldara, 1979) and one specimen collected at Setubal in Portugal (Caldara, 1987). It belongs to the *S. exigua* group (Caldara, 1979), which in Spain is represented by *S. exigua* Faust, 1885, *S. albosquamosa* Pic, 1904 and *S. gallica gemmans* Desbrochers 1908 (Caldara, 1979; Alonso-Zarazaga, 2002). From these species *S. umbrosa* can be distinguished by the dark brown rostrum in the apical half instead of reddish and the narrower and subconical prothorax.

No data on the biology of this species are available. However it is very likely that *S. umbrosa* lives on plants belonging to the genus *Limonium* as other species closely related to this weevil.

Tychius (Tychius) africanus Franz

Tychius africanus Franz, 1942: 247. Caldara, 1990: 148.

Spain: Andalucía, Cádiz, Algeciras, 15.IV.1989, leg. de Ferrer (1 ex., AZCM).

REMARKS: New to Spain. *Tychius africanus* belongs to the *T. depressus* group, with no species quoted from Spain up to now (Caldara, 1990). This species is new for Europe since previously known only from a few specimens collected in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. It can be easily separated from the other species of *Tychius* living in Spain by the sculpture of the pronotum which is formed by both punctures and grooves intermixed. No biological data are available.

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