

## *Gonioctena israelita* sp. n., a new species of leaf-beetles from Israel (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

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A new species of leaf-beetles, *Gonioctena israelita* sp. n., is described from Israel. A key to species of the genus *Gonioctena* of the Eastern Mediterranean region is given.

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### *Gonioctena (Goniomena) israelita* sp. n. (Figs 1-4)

*Holotype*. ♂, Israel, NW coast of Dead Sea, Enot Zukim (= Enot Zuqim) oasis, on *Tamarix* sp., 28.II.1994 (V. Chikatunov). The holotype is deposited in the National Collection of Insects, Tel Aviv University.

*Description*. Male. (Fig. 1). Body, antennae and legs light testaceous. Margins of pronotum, elytral bases and scutellum narrowly dark brown. Frons slightly convex, separated from clypeus by a narrow dark arched furrow, covered by wide and shallow punctures, sparse in the middle and concentrated in patches laterally. Anterior edge of labium with a shallow concavity. Antenna short, 1.5 times as long as pronotum; 1st segment swollen, 2nd segment half as wide as 1st; antennal segments length ratio 13 : 8 : 10 : 7 : 6 : 6 : 7 : 7 : 7 : 8 : 12; 7-10th segments 1.4 times as long as wide at apices.

Pronotum moderately convex, about 1.9 times as wide as long, nearly parallel-sided, slightly tapered anteriorly, with base 1.3 times as wide as apex; anterior edge deeply concave, forming strongly protruding and rounded lateral angle. Pronotal punctation medially sparse (spaces between punctures 1-4 times the puncture diameter), laterally and posteriorly denser and deeper (spaces between punctures less than puncture diameter), consisting of punctures of two sizes: larger, 1.5-2.0 times as large as ommatidium, and smaller, 0.5-1.0 times as large as ommatidium. Scutellum triangular, smooth, slightly longer than wide, pointed at apex.

Elytra 3.5 times as long as pronotum, 1.5 times as long as wide at humeral area, scarcely widened at middle, subparallel-sided; humeral prominences weak. Rows of punctures regular in basal half; 6-8th rows irregular at apex. Punctures deep, dark; spaces between punctures in rows unequal, 0.5-2.0 times the puncture diameter. Interstriae 1.2-2.0 times as wide as puncture, flat on disc, slightly convex laterally, smooth, shiny.

Fore tibia without subapical denticle (subgeneric character), middle and hind tibia with subapical denticle. First tarsal segment slightly wider than 2nd one and nearly as wide as 3rd segment.

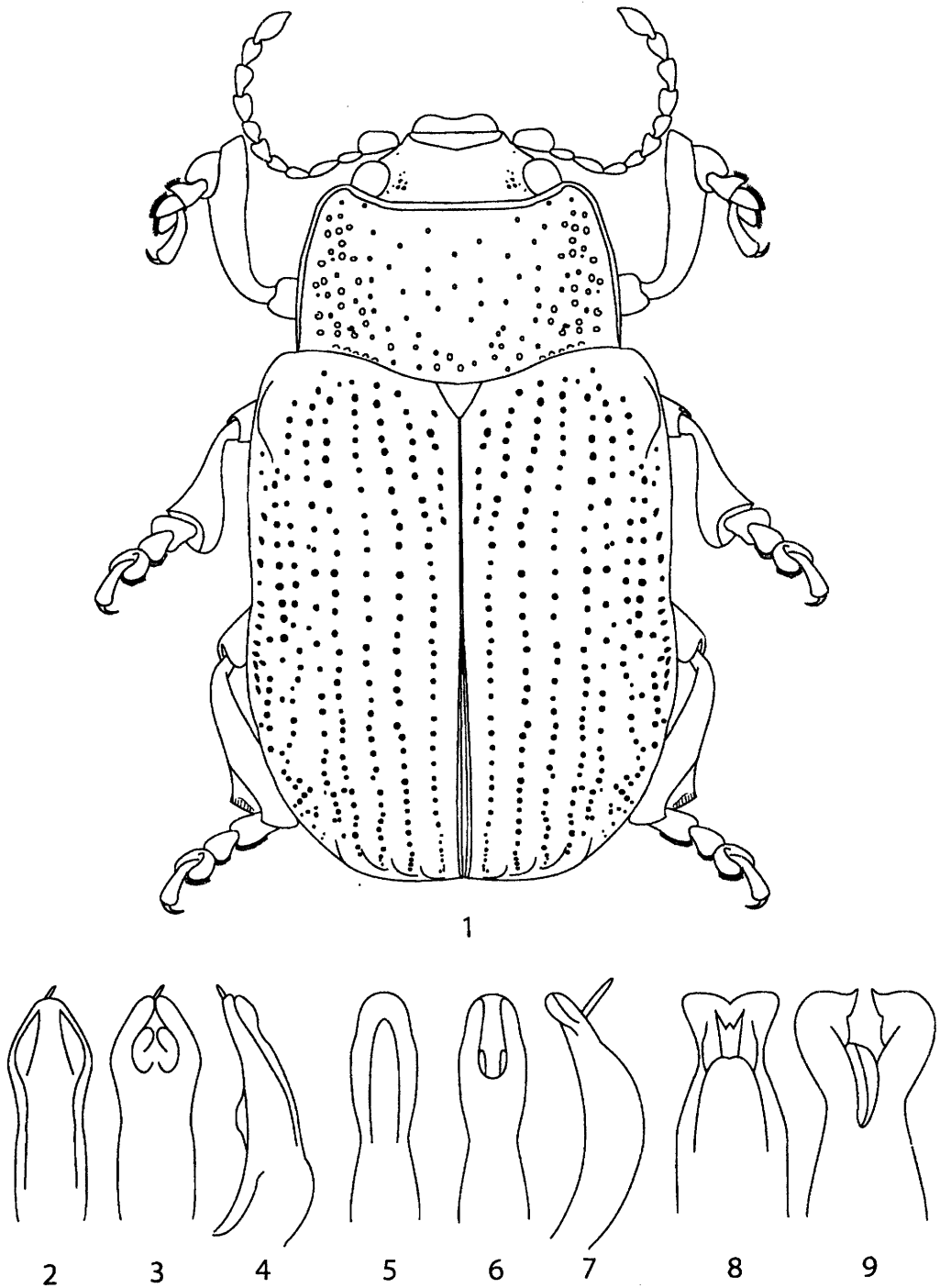
Aedeagus (Figs 2-4) with widened rhomboidal apex.

Body length 5.5 mm; body width at humeri 2.6 mm.

*Diagnosis*. The new species closely resembles *Gonioctena (Goniomena) pallida* (Linnaeus) from Northern and Central Europe in the habitus (body reddish, subcylindrical) and lack of subapical denticle on fore tibia, but differs from it in the longer antennal segments 7-10, the pronotum slightly tapered anteriorly, pronotal punctation of two types, subparallel-sided elytra with dark punctation, the scutellum narrower and pointed apically, flat interstriae on elytral disc, and shape of the aedeagus (Figs 5-7).

*Host plant*. Collected on *Tamarix* sp.

*Discussion*. The discovery of the new species of *Gonioctena (Goniomena)* is of great zoogeographical interest, as the few other species of this



**Figs 1-9.** *Goniocetena*, male. 1-4, *G. israelita* sp. n.; 5-7, *G. pallida* (L.); 8, *G. fornicaata fornicaata* (Brügg.); 9, *G. fornicaata akbesiana* (Fairm.). Habitus, dorsal view (1); aedeagus: dorsal (2, 5, 8, 9), ventral (3, 6), and lateral (4, 7) views.

subgenus are distributed mainly in the northern part of the Palaearctic. The localities closest to Israel, where *Gonioctena* (*Goniomena*) spp. are found, are in mountainous regions of Southern Europe. No species of this subgenus has been previously recorded from the Eastern Mediterranean region, although one species of *Gonioctena* (*Spartoxena*) (with two subspecies) has been recorded.

**Key to the Eastern Mediterranean species of *Gonioctena***

1. Fore tibia without subapical denticle (subgenus *Goniomena*); pronotum transverse; pronotum and elytra subparallel-sided (at least in basal 2/3); coloration light testaceous, without black spots; elytral punctation coarse, punctures black; interstriae shiny, impunctate; weak humeral prominences developed; apex of aedeagus not forked (Figs 2-4); in male, body length 5.5 mm. – Israel: Dead Sea area . . . . . **G. (*Goniomena*) israelita** sp. n.

- Fore tibia with subapical denticle (subgenus *Spartoxena*); pronotum trapezoidal; pronotum and elytra rounded laterally; coloration varied: dark red to testaceous, rarely dark brown, usually with black spots on pronotum and elytra; elytral punctation minute, punctures usually not pigmented; interstriae dull, slightly punctate; humeral prominences absent; apex of aedeagus forked (Figs 8-9) . . . . . 2
- 2. Apex of aedeagus with narrow lateral lobes (Fig. 8); body length 5.4-7.0 mm. – Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Northern and Central Israel. . . . .  
 . . **G. (*Spartoxena*) fornicata fornicata** (Brüggeman)
- Apex of aedeagus with broad lateral lobes (Fig. 9); body length 5.2-6.7 mm. – Syria. . . . .  
 . . . . **G. (*Spartoxena*) fornicata akbesiana** (Fairmair)

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