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Enzo Colonnelli (*) and Leonardo Forbicioni (**)

A NEW *OTIORHYNCHUS* GERMAR FROM THE SIBILLINI MOUNTAINS, CENTRAL APENNINES (Coleoptera, Curculionidae)

Introduction

After the recent description by Colonnelli & Casalini (2014) of a new species of *Otiorhynchus* (*Aranihus*) Reitter, 1912 from the Laga Mountains, another species of the same subgenus from the adjacent Sibillini mountain range, central Apennines was sent to us for identification, and turned out to be undescribed. This is the second *O.* (*Aranihus*) to be discovered in the central Apennines mountain range living above tree level.

Material and methods

Measurements of specimens are taken as explained in Colonnelli & Casalini (2014). Length of rostrum is measured from base to epistome, excluding mandibles, and terminology of rostral regions follows van den Berg (1972), Oberprieler (1988) and Thompson (1968, 1992).

A microscope Wild M5 up to 50 magnifications was used to study the insects. To extract genitalia of dry specimens, they were softened using the method by Sacco (1984). Genitalia were then left in cold KOH 10% solution for some minutes, then cleaned and mounted in DMHF on a label pinned under the specimen.

Photos were taken by Francesco Sacco by means of a Nikon D90 camera with a AF Micro Nikkor 60 mm objective, and then elaborated using the programs Helicon Focus 6.0 and Adobe Photoshop PS4. Labels of specimens are quoted as written, a slash separating lines on the same label.

Abbreviations of the type depositories are as follows: ADBI = Augusto Degiovanni collection, Bubano (BO), Italy; APVI = Alessandro Paladini col-

(*) Via delle Giunchiglie, 56 - 00172 Roma, Italy. E-mail: ecolonnelli@yahoo.it
(**) Via Roma, 6 - 57037 Portoferraio (LI), Italy. E-mail: jjuniper8@gmail.com

lection, Vicchio (FI), Italy; ECRI = Enzo Colonnelli collection, Rome, Italy; LDCI = Luciano Diotti collection, Cinisello Balsamo (MI), Italy; MZUF = Entomology Department, Zoological Museum "La Specola" of the University of Florence, Italy; LFPI = Leonardo Forbicioni collection, Portoferraio (LI), Italy; MTMI = Michele Tedeschi collection, Milano, Italy; RCRI = Roberto Casalini collection, Rome, Italy.

Otiorhynchus (Aranihus) f a u c i u m n. sp.

Diagnosis. An *Otiorhynchus* astonishingly similar to *O. misellus* Stierlin, 1861 from southeastern France and northwestern Italy, and hardly differing from it by the longer, thicker and often truncate elytral setae, larger subquadrate punctures of striae, intervals on elytra clearly narrower and with a coarser sculpture, base of elytra flat or slightly depressed.

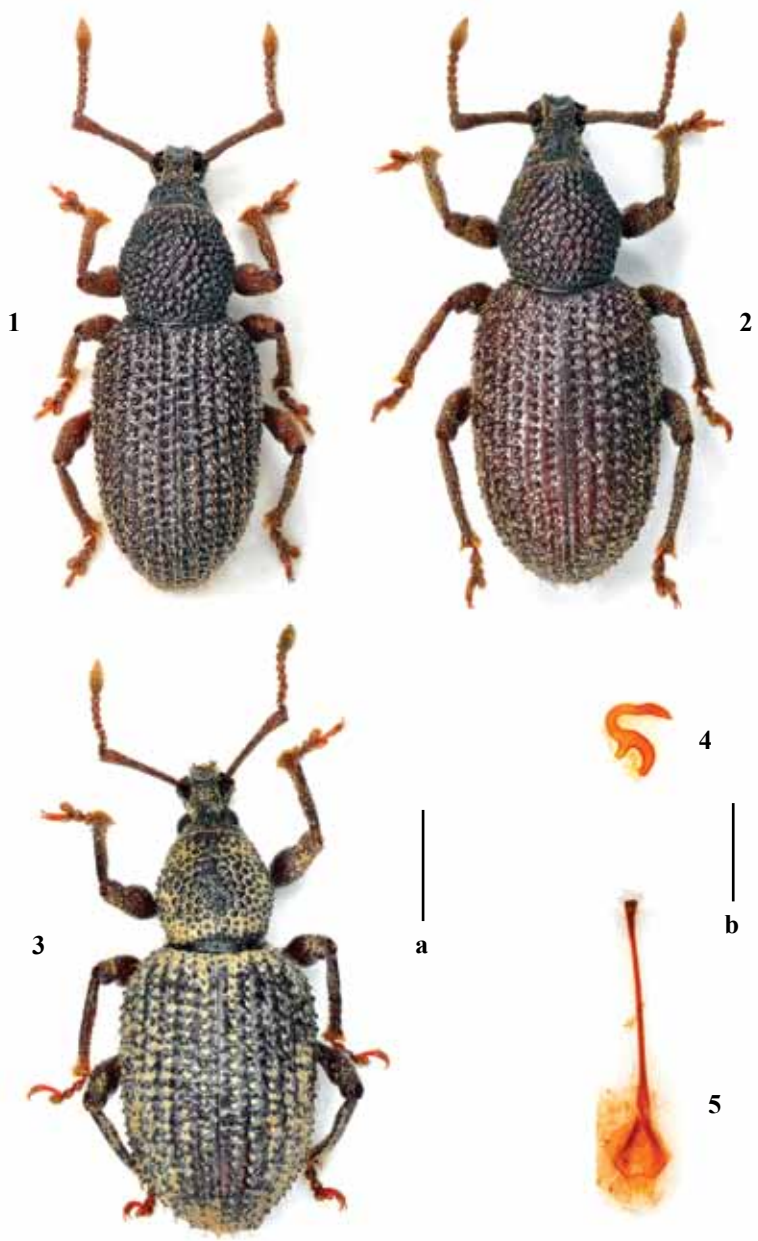
Type series. "Forcella del Farnio / (MC) M. Sibillini / m 1700 10.X.2011 / leg: Bastianini M.", 1 ♀ holotype (MZUF) and 8 ♀♀ paratypes (2 ECRI, 1 LDCI, 1 LFPI, 2 MTMI, 1 RCRI). "Marche: M.ti Sibillini / Forcella del Farnio / 1750 m. 10.X.2011 (MC) / leg. A. Degiovanni", 1 ♀ paratype (ADBI). "Marche (MC) / Foce del Farnio / 5-X-2009 mt. 1820 / Leg. Alessio Benelli", 1 ♀ paratype (APVI).

Holotype. Body length 5.00 mm. Brown, rather shining, antennae and legs dark ferrous-red. Dorsum of rostrum and head clothed by golden-yellowish barely curved slanted hairlike scales which are denser and centripetal on rostrum, and sparser and pointing forward on head, the same kind of slightly lifted scales cover legs, whereas on pronotum they are more raised and thinner: on elytral intervals is a row of longer suberect setae usually with subtrubcate apex on each interval, migled with recumbent very sparse minute setae; underside with half-lifted quite sparse thin golden setae. Rostrum about as long as wide, sides converging from base to strongly protruding pterygia. Epifrons flat, rugosely punctured from base to the subapical oblique declivity, at the narrowest point between antennal insertion about 0.44 times as wide as rostrum between pterygia, sides weakly keeled. Epistome relatively elongate, U-shaped and distinct from epifrons by its smooth surface. Scrobes large, pit-shaped, entirely visible in dorsal view, in lateral view barely curved downwards near eyes. Head separated from rostrum by a barely visible transversal impression, distance between eyes slightly more than that between antennal insertion, space between eyes with an elongate pit, vertex slightly convex, punctured, temples just a little longer than the greater diameter of an eye. Eyes small, elliptical, a little convex, and surrounded posteriorly by a crescent sulcus. Antennae thick; scape just a little curved basally and barely clubbed towards apex; first funicular antennomere curved at base, slightly longer and hardly wider than the sec-

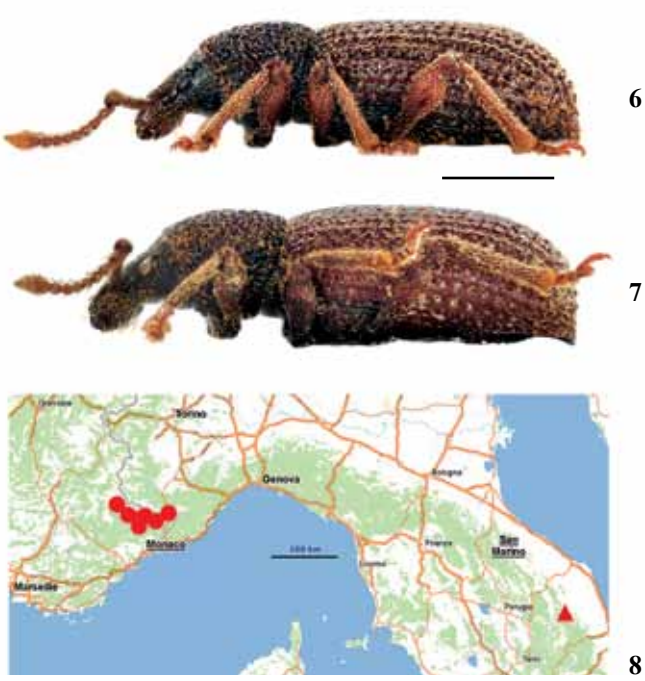
ond, antennomeres 3 to 7 moniliform, not transverse and scarcely diminishing in length; club fusiform, quite elongate, about as long as the three preceding segments. Pronotum 1.1 times longer than wide, widest at middle, rather convex dorsally in lateral view; anterior margin hardly narrower than basal one; sides quite strongly rounded; disc with fairly large rather flat umbilicate granules becoming smaller and convex on sides. Scutellum barely visible. Elytra elongate, 1.50 times longer than wide and 1.51 as wide as pronotum, dorsum flattened, apical declivity almost perpendicular; striae formed by rows of large subquadrate punctures; intervals narrower than striae, moderately convex and minutely granulate. Legs robust; femora quite strongly clubbed, edentate; tibiae hardly curved at extreme base, their inner side sligthly bisinuate ad very minutely and sparsely granulate, apical quarter, particularly that of pro- and mesotibiae, slighlty curved inwards; tarsi robust. Suture between ventrites 1 and 2 moderately arched forward. Habitus as depicted in figs 1 and 6.

Paratypes. Almost identical to the holotype, base of elytra in some of them faintly concave. Body length 5.00-5.2 mm. Spermatheca and spiculum as depicted in figs 4 and 5.

Differential diagnosis. Among the species of its subgenus, dimension, elongate body shape and thick antennae of the new species make is extremely similar only to *O. misellus* Stierlin, 1861 from the Alps of southeastern France, and known from Italy just of the border crossing of Colle di Tenda (Hoffmann 1950, Abbazzi & Maggini 2009), whereas the only other locality of Santo Stefano di Tinea quoted by Luigioni (1929) and by Abbazzi & Maggini (2009) as Italian is actually in France and presently named Saint-Étienne-de-Tinée. *Otiorhynchus faucium* can be hardly differentiated from *O. misellus* by its clearly larger subquadrate punctures of elytral striae, which makes all intervals a trifle narrower than striae instead of about as wide or wider than them as in *O. misellus*. In addition, the elytral intervals of the new species, particularly the inner ones, are obviously much more raised and their sculpture is coarser than that of *O. misellus* (figs 1, 2, 6 and 7). The dorsal lifted setae of *O. faucium* are also plainly thicker and almost all have truncate or subtruncate instead of sharp apex as is that of most of the setae of *O. misellus*. The basal third of elytra of *O. faucium* is flat or slightly depressed, whereas in *O. misellus* it is faintly convex. Although we could study only females of *O. faucium*, and given that spermathecae of both the above-mentioned species do not show significant differences, their minute differences and the great distance between the distribution of these flightless weevils (fig. 8), both known in addition as living in alpine habitats higher than trees level, are in accordance with their specific rather than subspecific separation. Seen that all the 11 specimens known are females, it is even possible that *O. faucium* may reveal itself to be parthenogenetic instead



Figs 1-5 – Habitus of: *Otiorhynchus faucium* n. sp., holotype (1); *O. misellus* Stierlin from France, Col du Cheval Blanc (2); *O. venarum* Colonnelli & Casalini, 2014, paratype (3). Spermatheca of a paratype of *O. faucium* n. sp. (4). Spiculum of the same (5). Scale bars: a = 2 mm (figs 1-3); b = 0.2 mm (figs 4 and 5).



Figs 6-8 – Lateral view of: *Otiorhynchus faucium* n. sp., holotype (6); *O. misellus* Stierlin from France, Col du Cheval Blanc (7). Distribution of *O. faucium* n. sp. (red triangle), and of *O. misellus* Stierlin (red circles). Scale bar = 2 mm.

of bisexual like *O. misellus*. Apart from *O. misellus*, there is no other *O.* (*Aranihus*) that can be confused with *O. faucium* - see the notes on all known members of this subgenus by Colonnelli & Casalini (2014). It is worthy of note that the new species is quite diverse (figs 1 and 3) from *O.* (*Aranihus*) *venarum* Colonnelli & Casalini, 2014, the only alpine species from the central Apennines thus far know.

Etymology. The species was collected near a mountain pass, and the genitive of the Latin name (fauces) of such pass remarks this circumstance.

Ecology. All specimens were collected inside pitfall traps with vinegar, mulled wine, tea and liver, meant for endogean Carabidae but which sometimes attract also weevils (Bastianini, pers. comm.).

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to all people in whose collections types are deposited. Thanks to the courtesy of Fabio Talamelli, San Giovanni in Marignano (RN), Italy, we were able to study a couple of French *O. misellus*. Francesco Sacco (Rome) is heartily thanked for taking habitus pictures and photos of spermatheca and spiculum of the new species.

SUMMARY

The new species *Otiorhynchus* (*Aranihus*) *faucium* n. sp. from the Sibillini Mountains, central Apennines, Italy is described. It differs from the extremely close *O. misellus* Stierlin, 1861 from the French and Italian Maritime Alps by its longer and thicker lifted setae usually with truncate apex, obviously larger subquadrate elytral striae, much more raised and coarsely sculptured elytral intervals, flattened or even slightly concave basal third.

RIASSUNTO

Un nuovo Otiorhynchus *Germar dei Monti Sibillini, Appennino centrale (Coleoptera, Curculionidae).*

Viene descritta la nuova specie *Otiorhynchus* (*Aranihus*) *faucium* n. sp. dei Monti Sibillini, Appennino centrale, diversa dall'estremamente simile *O. misellus* Stierlin, 1861 delle Alpi Marittime francesi e italiane per le sue setole erette più lunghe e ingrossate e ad apice normalmente troncato invece che appuntito, chiaramente più grandi punti delle strie elitrali, il che fa sì che le interstrie siano più strette delle strie e tutte carenate, oltre che con scultura più grossolana. Inoltre il terzo basale delle elitre della nuova specie è piatto o appena concavo invece che leggermente convesso come in *O. misellus*. Queste differenze, ancorché minute, e la grande distanza tra le località nelle quali sono stati rinvenuti questi insetti atteri ed eualpini militano in favore della loro separazione specifica piuttosto che sottospecifica dalla specie delle Alpi Marittime.

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