FOLIA ENTOMOLOGICA HUNGARICA
ROVARTANI KÖZLEMÉNYEK
L 1989 p. 5-7

A new Psammodius species from Hungary (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

By
L. ÁDÁM

(Received January 31, 1989)

Abstract: A new Psammodius species from Hungary (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea) - Psammodius danubialis sp. n. - is described from Hungary and distinguished from the closely related European species Psammodius bulgaricus Mencl, 1982.

During the identification of Hungarian material of Scarabaeoidea I have found the following new species.

Psammodius danubialis sp. n.

Small; strongly convex; male elongate oval, moderately broadening posteriorly (Fig. 1), female oblong oval, strongly broadening posteriorly (Fig. 2); apparently smooth, very finely shagreened, moderately shining; mature specimens reddish brown (most typically light reddish brown) in colour, antennae and legs paler.

Head granulate anteriorly (granules rather transversal and relatively sparsely distributed), posteriorly with two pairs of oblique, coarsely punctate furrows. Clypeus angularly emarginate anteriorly, with rounded angle each side of emargination: lateral margins slightly convex. Genae prominent, ear-shaped, rounded. Margins of clypeus and genae hairless.

Pronotum with five transversal ridges and four transversal, coarsely punctate furrows. Lateral and basal margins crenelate, with relatively short, clavate setae.

Elytra with indistinct humeral teeth; with ten striae and ten intervals. Striae deep, with indistinct, rounded punctures. Intervals strongly convex, tenth interval flatter, essentially not shortened posteriorly. Scutellum small, triangular, strongly shagreened, alutaceous.

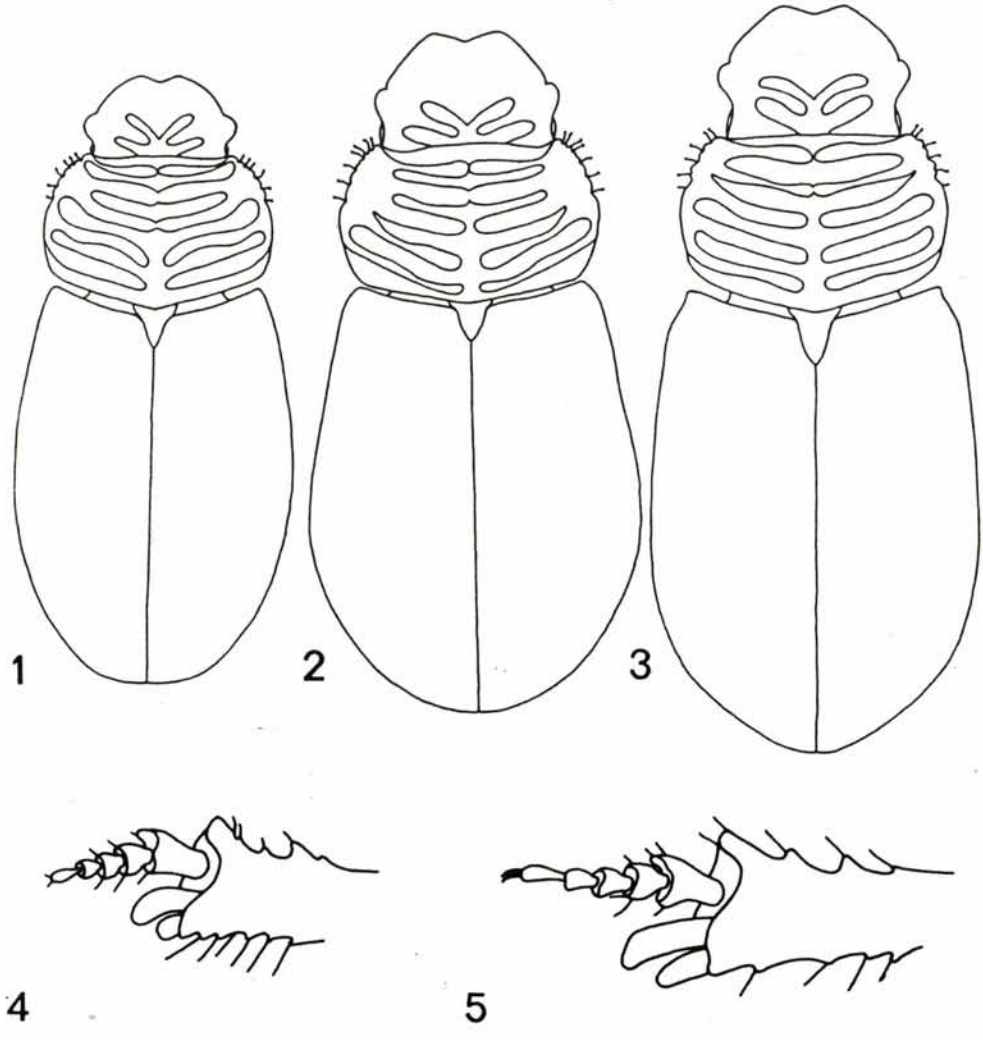
Hind tibiae relatively short, broadening apically (Fig. 4), with four rows of setigerous tubercles on ventral surface. Hind tarsi short, a little longer than breadth of tibia: basal four tarsal segments combined as long as breadth of tibia. First to fourth tarsal segments more or less triangularly widened. Claws rudimentary, very small. Longer terminal spur of hind tibia rather slender, very slightly dilated apically, longer than first and second tarsal segments combined.

Ventral surface light reddish or yellowish brown. Prosternum and metasternum finely coriaceous. Metasternal plate shining, with deep (male) or very shallow (female) longitudinal impression and with median longitudinal furrow shortened posteriorly. Abdominal sternites very finely shagreened. Femorae strongly dilated, coarsely, vaguely punctate, smooth or very finely shagreened, with few fine, short hairs on surface.

Length: 2.4-3.3 mm (males: 2.4-3.0 mm, females: 2.9-3.3 mm).

Type material. Holotype (♂): Kéleshalom, 1955. VI., leg. Lenci R. Paratypes (28 ♂♂, 78 ♀♀): Bócsa, homokbuckás (sand dunes), 1956. VI. 17., leg. Kaszab Z. et Székessy V.;

Budapest, Lágymányos, leg. Diener H.; Bugac, Ősborókás, hangyabolyból (from ant nest), 1978. VII. 6., leg. Mahunka S.; Esztergom, leg. Bokor E.; Fülöpháza, Strázsa-hegy, 120 m, moha alól (from beneath moss), 1978. V. 25., sajtról (from cheese), 1978. X. 25., kő alól (from beneath stone), 1979. III. 26., 1980. IX. 15., leg. Ádám L.; Kalocsa, leg. Speiser F.; Kéleshalom, 1955. VI., leg. Lenci R.; Orgovány, 1956. VII. 24., leg. Tóth L.; Őrbottyán, Őrszentmiklós, nyáras (poplar tree plantation), 1879. IV. 15., leg. Sajó K.; Soltvadkert, leg. Lenci R.; Yugoslavia, Grebenac, 1874., leg. Frivaldszky J. et Pável J.; Yugoslavia, Horgos, (IV. 25.), leg. Biró L. The types are deposited in the Zoological Department of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.



Figs 1, 2, 4. Psammodius danubialis sp. n., 1= body outline of male, 2= body outline of female, 4= hind tibia and tarsus. - Figs 3, 5. Psammodius bulgaricus Mencl, 1982, 3= body outline of male, 5= hind tibia and tarsus

This new species is especially similar to Psammodius bulgaricus Mencl, 1982. (Fig. 3, 5). The distinctive characters are the body length, the relatively short, strongly dilated femora, the relatively short hind tibiae and hind tarsi, and rudimentary, very small claws.

Bionomy: Psammodius danubialis sp. n. a typical species of dry sandy grasslands developed on loose, warm, calcareous sand. It is found mainly in annual sand swards (Brometum tectorum), in open sandy grasslands (Festucetum vaginatae), rarely in sandy pastures (Potentillo arenariae-Festucetum pseudovinae), etc. The specimens excavate themselves into the sand in 2-5 cm deep, depending on the humidity, among grass roots, under stones, often in the vicinity of Diastictus vulneratus (Sturm, 1805) and Lasius alienus (Förster, 1850) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). They feed on decaying plant substances.

LITERATURE

MENCL, L. (1982): Eine neue Art der Gattung Psammodius aus Bulgarien (Coleoptera, Aphodiidae). - Acta ent. bohemoslov., 79: 310-314.

RAKOVIC, M. (1981): A revision of the Psammodius Fallén species from Europe, Asia and Africa. - Rozpravy Ceskoslovenské Akademie Ved, 91 (1). Academia Praha, 82 pp.

Author's address: I. ÁDÁM
Zoological Department
Hungarian Natural History Museum
Baross u. 13.
H-1088 Budapest
HUNGARY