

A new species of the genus *Trox*
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea)

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A new species of the genus *Trox* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea). – *Trox cricetulus* sp. n. is described and distinguished from the closely related species, *T. hispidus* (Pontoppidan, 1763) and *T. niger* Rossi, 1792.

***Trox cricetulus* sp. n.**

In general appearance similar to the other *Trox* species of the *hispidus* species-group, particularly to *T. hispidus* (Pontoppidan, 1763) and to *T. niger* Rossi, 1792. Body elongate oval, strongly convex, moderately broadening posteriorly; surface finely alutaceous; uniformly black in colour, antennae and palpi light reddish brown, tarsi reddish brown. Dorsal and ventral surface as well as pronotal and elytral margins with yellowish brown setae.

Surface of head slightly scabrous and uneven, with umbilicate setiferous punctures. Anterior clypeal margin triangular, obtusely angulate at the middle. Frontal tubercles flat and indistinct.

Pronotum transverse quadrangular, moderately, arcuately narrowing anteriorly. Surface with umbilicate setiferous punctures. Discal ridges moderately prominent. Median ridges distinctly raised. Median depression rather wide, distinctly impressed over almost its entire length, except its narrower and shallower median part. Lateral ridges and furrows obsolete. Lateral margins distinctly sinuate near posterior angle. Marginal setae short, flat and broad, foliaceous, rounded apically. Posterior angles acute.

Elytra strongly convex, moderately broadening posteriorly. Humerus distinctly dentate, humeral callus prominent, preapical callus distinct. Lateral margins finely denticulate. Marginal setae slightly clavate, rounded apically. Intervals with a row of oblong oval, flat or slightly convex tubercles. Tubercles of odd intervals with one, more or less regular row of 2–8 (most often of 3–6) setiferous punctures. Size of largest tubercles of even intervals about one-quarter, one-third or half the size of tubercles of odd intervals, with 1 or 2 (rarely 3) setiferous punctures. Elytral striae slightly undulate; punctures slightly impressed, intervals between punctures almost flat or slightly convex. Wings normally developed. Scutellum small, narrowly triangular, distinctly longer than wide, rounded apically, surface finely alutaceous.

Length: 9.2 mm. Male genitalia: Fig. 1.

Holotype (male): [Croatia], Ludbreg, [leg.] Apfelbeck; paratype (male): [Spain], Mataelpino (Madrid), 3-X-1981, M. Ortego leg. The types are deposited in the Department of Zoology of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest.

Trox cricetulus sp. n. may be distinguished from the closely related species (*T. hispidus* and *T. niger*) by the following key.

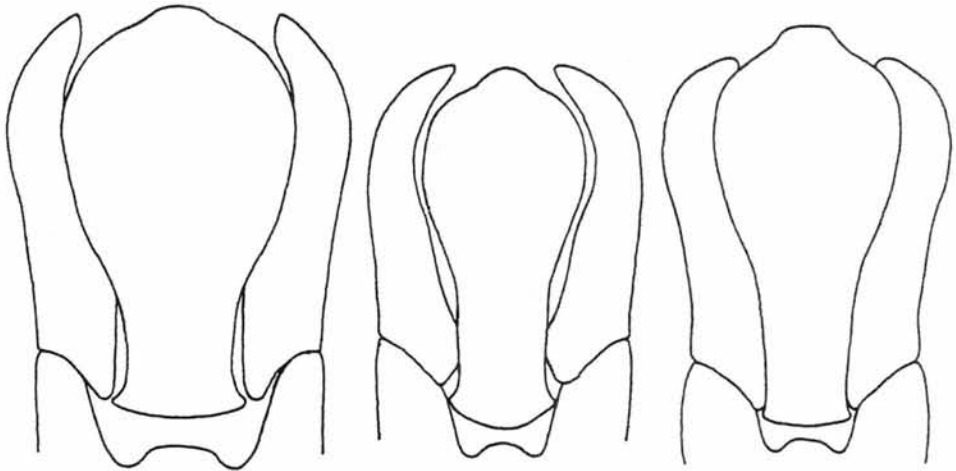
1 (2) Size of largest tubercles of even intervals about one-quarter, one-third or half the size of tubercles of odd intervals, with 1 or 2 (rarely 3) setiferous punctures. – Tubercles of odd intervals flat or slightly convex, with one, more or less regular row of 2–8 (most often of 3–6) setiferous punctures at posterior margin. Male genitalia: Fig. 1. ***Trox cricetulus* sp. n.**

2 (1) Tubercles of even intervals small, granuliform, having 1 (rarely 2) or without setiferous punctures.

3 (4) Tubercles of odd intervals flat or slightly convex, with one, more or less regular row of 2–9 (most often of 2–6) setiferous punctures at posterior margin. Tubercles of even intervals small, most often with 1 setiferous puncture (rarely having 2, sometimes without setiferous punctures). Male genitalia: Fig. 2.

***Trox hispidus* (Pontoppidan, 1763)**

4 (3) Tubercles of odd intervals slightly or strongly convex, with a group of 3–18 (most often of 5–9) setiferous punctures in one or two rather irregular rows at posterior margin. Tubercles of even intervals very small, most often without setiferous punctures (sometimes with 1 setiferous puncture). Male genitalia: Fig. 3. ***Trox niger* Rossi, 1792**



Figs 1–3: Male genitalia (in dorsal view) of *Trox cricetulus* (1), *T. hispidus* (2) and *T. niger* (3)

REFERENCE

- Pittino, R. (1991): On some palaeartic «taxa» allied to *Trox hispidus* (Pontoppidan), with a brachypterous new species from Italy, Malta, Crete, and the Balkan Peninsula (Coleoptera, Trogidae. – *Boll. Ass. romana Ent.* **45**: 57–87.

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