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A new species of *Ocalea* from Afghanistan (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

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Abstract: *Ocalea discrepans* nov.sp., the first representative of the genus to become known from Afghanistan, is described and illustrated. The erroneous type locality of *Ocalea gyorgyi* ASSING & TERLUTTER 2008 is rectified.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Ocalea*, Afghanistan, taxonomy, new species.

Introduction

According to SMETANA (2004), the aleocharine genus *Ocalea* ERICHSON 1837 is represented in the Palaearctic region by nearly 40 species. Except for the recently described *O. gyorgyi* ASSING & TERLUTTER 2008 from Romania, all the Palaearctic species so far studied by the second author are characterised by a rather uniform morphology of the aedeagus. No *Ocalea* species have become known from Afghanistan.

Among material of Staphylinidae recently collected in northeastern Afghanistan by Christoph Reuter (Kabul), Benedikt Feldmann (Münster) discovered a male specimen of an aleocharine externally resembling a species of *Ocalea*, but with an aedeagus of remarkable morphology, which raised the suspicion that the species referred to *Pseudocalea* LUZE 1902 of the Aleocharini. However, a subsequent study of the mouthparts and of other external and sexual characters revealed that it represents an undescribed species of *Ocalea* of the Oxypodini.

Methods

The morphological studies were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). For the photographs a digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the clypeus (without anteclypeus) to the posterior margin of the head, elytral length at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra, and the length of the median lobe of the aedeagus from the base of the capsule to the apex of the ventral process.

***Ocalea discrepans* nov.sp. (Figs 1-10)**

Type material: Holotype ♂: "NE-Afghanistan, 2008, Shiwa Lake, 2800-2900 m, 37°14'N/70°58'E, 19.-21.VII., leg. C. Reuter / Holotypus ♂ *Ocalea discrepans* sp.n. det. V. Assing & H. Terlutter 2008" (coll. Assing).

Description: Body length 5.0 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Coloration: body uniformly blackish; femora and antennae dark brown; tibiae and tarsi brown.

Head approximately as wide as long; punctuation fine, shallow, and moderately dense; microsculpture very shallow, in median dorsal area practically obsolete; eyes large, approximately as long as postocular region in dorsal view (Fig. 2). Antennae slender, approximately 1.7 mm long (Fig. 3). Mouthparts as in Figs 4-6.

Pronotum 1.1 times as wide as long and 1.18 times as wide as head (Fig. 2); posterior angles obtuse, but marked; lateral margins in posterior half straight in dorsal view; pubescence directed cephalad along anterior 5/6-6/7 of midline, caudad along posterior 1/6-1/7 of midline, and laterad in lateral portions of disc; punctuation slightly denser and more pronounced than that of head; microsculpture extremely shallow, almost obsolete.

Elytra approximately 1.05 times as long and 1.45 times as wide as pronotum (Fig. 2); posterior margins moderately sinuate near posterior angles; punctuation fine and dense, more defined than that of pronotum; interstices narrower than diameter of punctures and with barely noticeable microsculpture; pubescence directed diagonally postero-laterad in internal half and almost straight posteriad in external half. Hind wings fully developed.

Abdomen approximately 0.85 times as wide as elytra, widest at segments V/VI; tergites III-V with rather deep, tergite VI with slightly shallower anterior impression; punctuation fine and rather sparse, distinctly sparser on posterior than on anterior tergites; posterior margin of tergite VII with pronounced palisade fringe; microsculpture very shallow on tergite VIII and practically obsolete on remaining tergites.

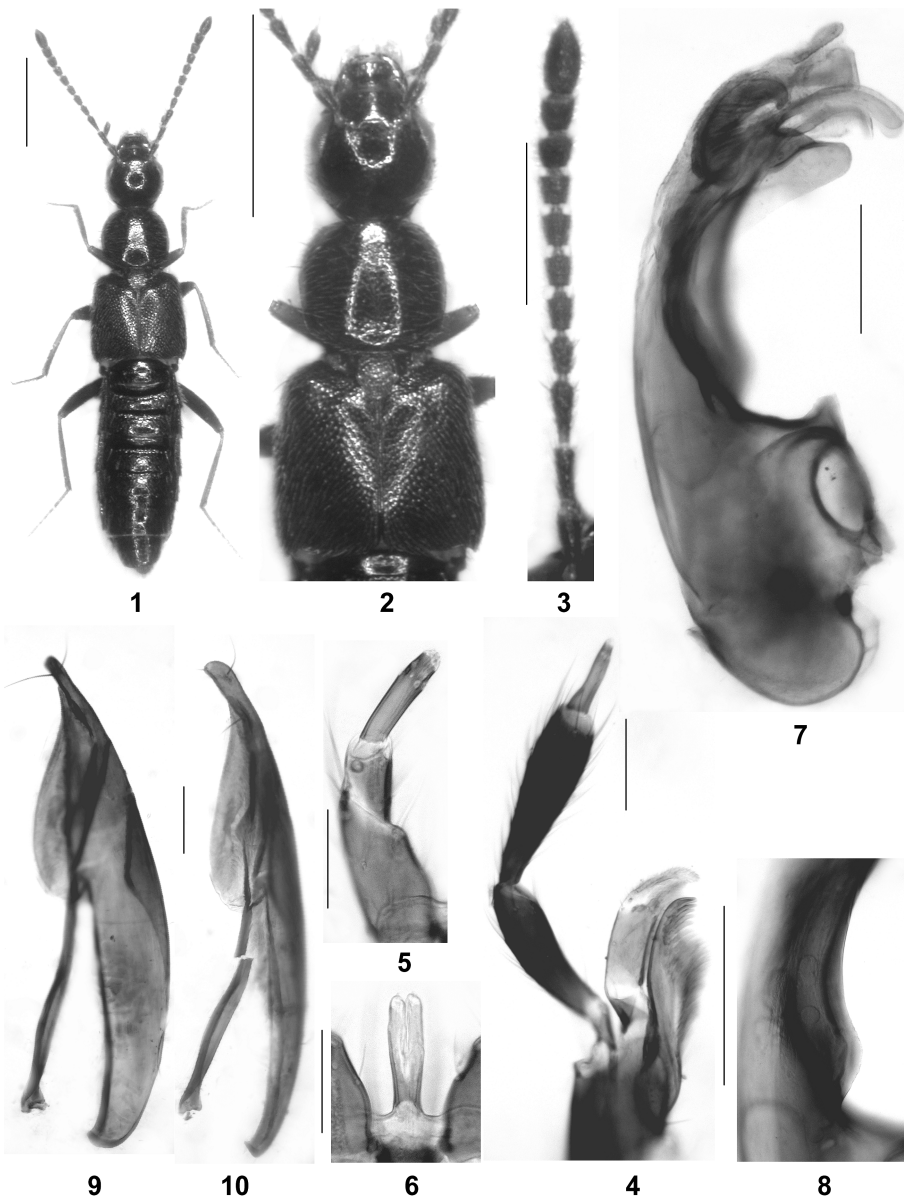
♂: posterior margin of tergite VIII convex; posterior margin of sternite VIII distinctly produced in the middle; median lobe of aedeagus 0.9 mm long and of highly distinctive morphology, at base of ventral process on either side with a pronounced carina, apex of ventral process flattened and very acute in ventral view (Figs 7-8); parameres very large, approximately 1.5 mm long (Figs 9-10).

♀: unknown.

Etymology: The name (Latin, adjective: different) refers to the morphology of the median lobe of the aedeagus, which is remarkably different from those of other known Palaearctic congeners.

Comparative notes: The new species is readily separated from the similarly dark-coloured *O. concolor* KIESENWETTER 1847 and *O. gyorgyi*, as well as from all other Palaearctic representatives of the genus, by the conspicuous morphology of the aedeagus. For illustrations of the sexual characters of *O. gyorgyi* see ASSING & TERLUTTER (2008).

Distribution and bionomics: The type locality is situated in the very northeast of Afghanistan, almost 40 km to the northeast of Feyzabad and approximately 40 km from the border with Tajikistan. The holotype was collected at an altitude of 2800-2900 m.



Figs 1-10: *Ocalea discrepans* nov.sp. (holotype): (1) habitus; (2) forebody; (3) antenna; (4) maxillary palpus; (5) labial palpus; (6) ligula; (7) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (8) base of median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (9-10) paramere in different aspects. Scale bars: 1-2: 1.0 mm; 3: 0.5 mm; 7-10: 0.2 mm; 4: 0.1 mm; 5-6: 0.05 mm.

Corrigendum

The type locality of *Ocalea gyorgyi* ASSING & TERLUTTER 2008 is erroneous and requires rectification (see recommendation 76A.2 of the Code). According to the original description of this species, both type specimens were collected in the same locality. However, the label data indicated by ASSING & TERLUTTER (2008) only refer to the paratype. The holotype, which is deposited in the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, has the following data: "Romania, jud. Caraş-Severin, Munţii Dognecei, 2 km SE Bocşa, p. Moraviţa, road to Ocna de Fier crossing, 240 m / flotation from litter stuck at streambank branches [330], 45°21'22"N, 21°45'38"E, 07.X.2007, Gy. Makranczy".

Acknowledgement

Special thanks are due to Benedikt Feldmann (Münster) for drawing our attention to this remarkable species and for the generous gift of the holotype.

Zusammenfassung

Ocalea discrepans nov.sp., die erste Art der Gattung aus Afghanistan, wird beschrieben und abgebildet. Die Typuslokalität von *Ocalea gyorgyi* ASSING & TERLUTTER 2008 wird korrigiert.

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