

Tribalus olexai, a new species of the genus *Tribalus* from the western Palearctic

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LACKNER, T. 2004. *Tribalus olexai*, a new species of the genus *Tribalus* from the western Palearctic. *Entomol. Probl.* 34(1–2): 47–48. – *Tribalus olexai*, sp.nov. from southern Anatolia (Turkey) is described and compared with related species.

Key words: Coleoptera, Histeridae, *Tribalus olexai*, new species, western Palearctic region, description.

Introduction

The genus *Tribalus*, ERICHSON, 1834 of the subfamily *Tribalinae* currently has two recognized subgenera: *Eutribalus*, BICKHARDT, 1921 and *Tribalus* s.str. Both of these subgenera are widespread through the Palearctic (*Tribalus* s. str. only), African and Oriental regions, with several species [*T. brouni* (BROUN, 1880), *T. phyllobius* (BROUN, 1914), *T. australis* (MACLEAY, 1871), *T. koenigi* MARSEUL, 1864] reaching Australia and New Zealand. Two species (*T. kaszabi* THÉRON, 1967 & *T. pinsapo* MAZUR, 1979) of African origin, have not been placed in subgenera (MAZUR, 1997).

OLEXA, in his excellent revision of the western Palearctic representatives of the genus (1980), described three new species: *T. maroccanus*, from Morocco, Spain and Sicily; *T. algericus* from Algeria and Tunisia; and *T. anatolicus*, from Turkey and Greece.

Altogether he recognized six species as occurring in the western Palearctic region: the three mentioned above and *T. minimus* (ROSSI, 1790), ranging along the northern coasts of the Mediterranean basin as far north as Austria and Slovakia (with a dubious record from Afghanistan); *T. scaphidiformis* (ILLIGER, 1807), from southern France, the Iberian Peninsula and Morocco, Tunisia & Algeria; and *T. freyi* G. Müller, 1937, from Iraq and Iran. Later, YÉLAMOS (1991) added another species, *T. atlantis*, from Moroccan High Atlas. In the present paper another new species, *T. olexai*, sp.nov., from southern Anatolia (Turkey) is described.

Tribalus olexai sp.nov.

Material examined. **Holotype** ♂, glued on its side, genitalia extracted, with a printed label: //Turcia, mer./ , /Avsallar b. Incekum/ , /22km W Alanya/ , /9-23.5.1995/ , /leg. A. Pütz//; with a consecutive label [printed-written]: //TRIBALUS/ , /anatolicus/ , /O. Kapler det. 2002//; and another label [printed-written]: //TRIBALUS/ , /olexai spec.nov./ , /Det. T. Lackner 2004/ ; and a red label [written]: //Holotypus//. **Paratypes** [numbered

1-7], 1 ♂, 6 ♀♀, labelled as for the holotype; one female bears the identification label of Mr. Kapler. The Holotype and one Paratype (# 3) are deposited at the Entomology Department of the Zoological Museum Amsterdam (ZMAN), the Netherlands, 3 paratypes (# 1, 2, 4) are deposited in the collection of author; one paratype (# 6) is deposited in the collection of Mr. Piet Kanaar, Oegstgeest (The Netherlands) and two remaining paratypes (# 5&7) are deposited in the collection of Mr. Andreas Pütz, Eisenhüttenstadt (Germany).

Description

Body oval, moderately convex, colour chestnut brown with a feeble metallic lustre. Tarsi and antennae light-brown.

Body length: 1.75 mm; width: 1.4 mm; height: 1.0 mm.

Head densely and finely punctate, punctures separated by 2–3 times their diameter. Supraorbital stria cariniform, prolonged onto the epistoma.

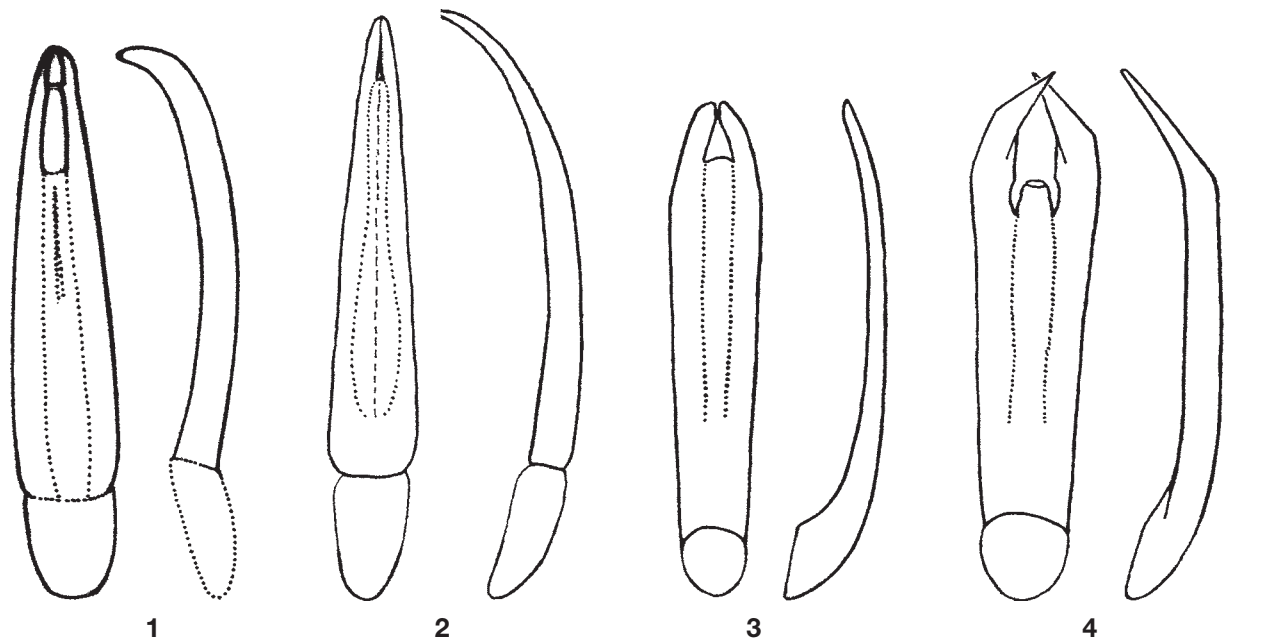
Pronotal sides strongly convergent anteriorly, disc of pronotum regularly and densely covered in shallow punctures, separated by 1.5–2 times their diameters. Along pronotal base a row of coarser punctation present. Marginal lateral pronotal stria completely impressed.

Epipleural marginal stria lightly impressed, but complete; marginal elytral stria similar.

Subhumeral stria distinctly and completely impressed. Elytral striae 1–2 very finely impressed anteriorly, rudimentary and disappearing altogether before elytral midpoint. Other elytral striae absent. Punctuation of elytra similar to that of pronotum.

Propygidium sparsely and finely punctate, punctures separated by 2–3 times their diameter. Punctuation of pygidium similar to that of propygidium, but finer; punctures separated by 3–4 times their diameters.

Anterior margin of prosternum broadly truncate, median portion almost straight; marginal stria of median lobe very thin, but complete. Disc of lobe sparsely and very finely punctate, punctures separated by 3–4 times their diameter. Prosternal keel longitudinal, rectangular; disc finely



Figs 1–4. Aedeagi, dorsal and ventral views: 1) *Tribalus olexai*, sp.nov.; 2) *Tribalus maroccanus* OLEXA; 3) *Tribalus minimus* (ROSSI); 4) *Tribalus anatolicus* OLEXA. Scale: 0.5 mm.

and sparsely punctate, carinal and lateral striae complete. Carinal striae not divergent anteriorly, almost parallel.

Anterior margin of mesosternum nearly straight. Mesosternum short (ratio width : length = 4 : 1) with very fine sparse punctation; marginal stria well impressed, complete. Meso-metasternal suture undulate, rather thin. Intercoxal disc of metasternum even, sparsely but coarsely punctate, the punctures finer medio-anteriorly and coarser latero-posteriorly and separated by 2–3 times their diameter. Longitudinal metasternal depression absent. Posterior margin of metasternum of male with small tubercle at middle. This feature is shared with one other west palearctic representative of the genus, *T. maroccanus* Olexa. Punctation of lateral metasternal disc similar to that of prosternum, lateral metasternal stria extending obliquely and laterally reaching near apical one third of length of lateral disc.

Intercoxal disc of first visible abdominal sternite very sparsely and finely punctate, punctures separated by 3–4 times their diameters and becoming even finer and sparser posteriorly; lateral striae impressed on basal fourth, next evanescent, very thin.

Protibia with numerous denticles on outer margin.

Aedeagus as shown in Fig.1, narrowing anteriorly. Aedeagus somewhat resembling that of *Tribalus maroccanus* Olexa, 1980.

Etymology. Named after Aldo Olexa (Prague), an excellent specialist on Histeridae.

Differential diagnosis

This is the second known west-palearctic species of the genus *Tribalus* ERICHSON to have a small tubercle present on the posterior margin of the metasternum (males only). This feature as well as the shape of the aedeagus

suggest a close relationship to one other west-palearctic representative of the genus: *T. maroccanus* OLEXA. It differs from *T. maroccanus* by lacking the metasternal longitudinal depression in males, greater body size, darker colour, carinal striae of the prosternal keel being almost parallel and not divergent in front.

Furthermore, *T. maroccanus* is known only from Morocco and Southernmost Spain, while the new species was collected in Southern Anatolia (Turkey).

Differences between species of the genus *Tribalus* ERICHSON are of a very subtle nature and the safest way for a correct determination is the shape of male genitalia only.

From other species occurring in the area of this new species, *T. minimus* (ROSSI) and *T. anatolicus* OLEXA, the new species differs chiefly by the shape of male aedeagus (see Figs 1–4)

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to thank Mr. Andreas Pütz (Eisenhüttenstadt, Germany) for the material of *Tribalus olexai* sp.nov., as well as for the generosity of letting me keep three paratypes. Mike Caterino is thanked for the revision of the manuscript.

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Manuscript received: 17. 4. 2004