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A new species of the weevil genus *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Baridinae) from Mt. Hermon in Israel and commentaries on the composition of the genera *Melanobaris* and *Aulacobaris* Desbrochers, 1892

Новый вид долгоносиков рода *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Baridinae) с горы Хермон в Израиле и замечания о составе родов *Melanobaris* и *Aulacobaris* Desbrochers, 1892

**В.А. Korotyayev¹, A.L.L. Friedman²
Б.А. Коротяев¹, А.Л.Л. Фридман²**

¹Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab., 1, St. Petersburg 199034 Russia. E-mail: baris@zin.ru

²Department of Zoology, the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Sciences, Tel Aviv University, Tel Aviv 69978 Israel. E-mail: laibale@post.tau.ac.il

¹Зоологический институт РАН, Университетская наб., 1, Санкт-Петербург 199034 Россия

²Кафедра зоологии, факультет биологических наук имени С. Вайза, Тель-Авивский университет, Тель-Авив 69978 Израиль

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Ключевые слова: долгоносики, Curculionidae, Baridinae, *Melanobaris*, *Aulacobaris*, новый вид, новые комбинации, гора Хермон, Израиль.

Abstract. A new species of the weevil genus *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999 is described from Israel (Mt. Hermon). *Melanobaris margaritae* sp. n. is similar to *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905), known from Turkey [?and Syria], in the habitus, but differs in the subparallel-sided and widely rounded at apex aedeagus, smaller and narrower body, finer, sparser and more even punctuation of the pronotum leaving free median line, rounded punctures on the sides of the prothorax, deeply engraved at base and weakening toward apex elytral striae, and dark brown antennae and legs. 15 species are transferred from the genus *Baris* Germar, 1817 to *Melanobaris*, and *Melanobaris longicollis* (Faust, 1890) is placed in *Aulacobaris*.

Резюме. Описан новый вид долгоносиков рода *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999 из Израиля (гора Хермон). *Melanobaris margaritae* sp. n. сходен с обитающим в Турции [? и Сирии] *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905), но хорошо отличается от него формой почти параллельностороннего эдеагуса с широко округленной вершиной, меньшими размерами более узкого тела, менее густой и глубокой и более равномерной пунктировкой переднеспинки, оставляющей гладкую срединную линию, округлыми точками на боках переднегруди, углубленными и расширенными в основании надкрылий и мельчающими и тончающимися к вершине бороздками и темно-коричневыми усиками и ногами. 15 видов перенесены из рода *Baris* Germar, 1817 в род *Melanobaris*, а *Melanobaris longicollis* (Faust, 1890) отнесен к роду *Aulacobaris*.

The genus *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999 is one of the largest in the Palaearctic fauna of the subfamily Baridinae. In the recent Palaearctic Catalogue [Prena, 2011], 15 species are assigned to *Melanobaris* but 15 species described in the genus *Baris* Germar, 1817 are

transferred here to *Melanobaris* based on the examination of the material. All known hosts of *Melanobaris* are Brassicaceae (various genera) and Resedaceae (*Reseda* L.).

Melanobaris amanicola (Pic, 1905), **comb. n.** This species was described from Mt. Amanus [Pic, 1905] formerly in Syria and was collected by B. Korotyayev together with Dr. L. Gültekin of the Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey, in northeastern part of the Amanus Mts. (Nur Dağları) on crucifers.

Melanobaris behnei (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris belovi (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris crambephaga (Korotyayev et Gültekin, 1999), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris dzhungarica (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris edmundi (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris krausei (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris maracandica (Zaslavskij, 1956), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris nigratarsis (Boheman, 1844), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris perlucida (Reitter, 1902), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris semistriata (Boheman, 1836), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris serbica (Schultze, 1897), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris steppensis (Roubal, 1935), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris tadzhica (Korotyayev, 1988), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris volgensis (Zaslavskij, 1956), **comb. n.**

Melanobaris and *Aulacobaris* Desbrochers, 1892 each include several very distinct species groups but the only character distinguishing these genera is the metallic colour in the members of *Aulacobaris*. This pair may probably be amalgamated in one genus similarly to what happened to *Ceutorhynchus* Germar, 1824 and *Marklissus* Reitter, 1916. In several species of the *Aulacobaris lepidii* (Germar, 1824) group the metallic sheen is either indistinct or missing and so they may be misidentified as *Melanobaris*. This is true,

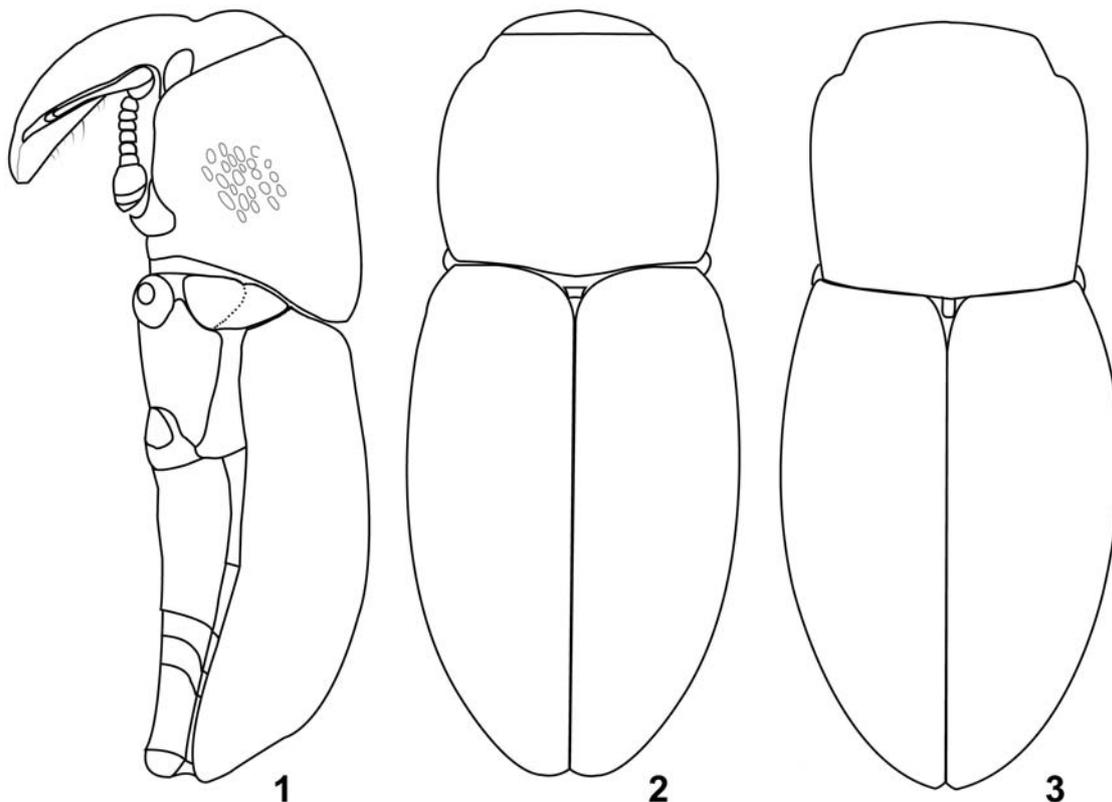


Fig. 1–3. *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999, habitus, lateral (1) and dorsal (2, 3) view.
1, 2 – *M. margaritae* sp. n., 3 – *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905).
Рис. 1–3. *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999, контур тела сбоку (1) и сверху (2, 3).
1, 2 – *M. margaritae* sp. n., 3 – *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905).

in particular, for *A. longicollis* (Faust, 1890), which is placed in the Palaearctic Catalogue [Prena, 2011] in *Melanobaris* but has the aedeagus typical of the *A. lepidii* group and is transferred here to *Aulacobaris*.

Aulacobaris longicollis (Faust, 1890), **comb. n.**

Noteworthy, in some *Aulacobaris* mesepimera are not visible dorsally, while in all *Melanobaris* this character is constant. The unusual feature is not associated with the degree of the wings development and occurs in winged and wingless species of *Aulacobaris* whereas all *Melanobaris* with rounded humeri have well-visible dorsally mesepimera.

Both *Melanobaris* and *Aulacobaris* are endemic to the Palaearctic Region (except probably for a few Ethiopian *Melanobaris*) and occur mostly in the open landscapes.

Melanobaris margaritae Korotyaev et Friedman, **sp. n.**

(Fig. 1, 2, 4, 7, 9–11)

Material. Holotype, ♂: Israel, Mt. Hermon, 2000 m, 23.04.1973 (D. Furth) (TAU). Paratypes: 1♂, same data as holotype (TAU); 1♀, Israel, Mt. Hermon, 2000 m, 22.05.1973 (D. Furth) (TAU); 1♀, Israel, Mt. Hermon, 6.07.1987 (Fini Kaplan) (TAU); 1♂, Israel, Har Hermon, Bol'an Valley, 2000 m, 33°18'17"N / 35°47'14"E, 27.04.2010, pitfall 2 (L. Friedman, C. Drees) (ZIN); 1♂, Israel, Har Hermon, Bol'an Valley, 2000 m, 33°18'17"N / 35°47'14"E, 27.04.2010, pitfall 5 (L. Friedman, C. Drees) (TAU).

Description. Male. Body length 3–3.5 mm. Body black, antennae and legs dark reddish-brown to almost black, lateral margin of elytra occasionally also brownish (probably in immature individuals). Vestiture sparse, inconspicuous. Dorsal surface bare, legs and sometimes 1st and 2nd ventrites with sparse recumbent hair-like yellowish scales.

Rostrum 4 times as long as broad, 0.8 times as long as pronotum, in dorsal view almost parallel-sided, slightly widened at antennal insertion and slightly narrowing at apex, in lateral view moderately and evenly curved, somewhat more strongly so in basal half; ventral surface less rounded in middle part; in lateral view, shallowly emarginate near base and with minute compressed laterally and rounded denticle near distal end of emargination. A row of semi-erect setae running along margin of ventral surface at either side. Dorsal surface of rostrum moderately and evenly convex in cross-section, with faint smooth median carina in apical 2/3, punctation moderately dense, punctures medium-sized, elongate, arranged in two pairs of rows at either side. Antennae inserted at 0.3 length of rostrum from apex; scape weakly to noticeably S-curved, moderately incrassate apically. Funicle moderately thick, 1st segment about twice as long as broad, 2nd and 3rd segments moderately, rest segments strongly transverse; club 1.14 times as long as broad, widely conical and blunted at apex. Setae on funicle moderately long and weakly raised except those on 6th and 7th segments, latter directed along sides of club. Frons shagreened and finely punctate.

Pronotum 1.05 times as broad as long, widest at mid-length, uniformly rounded at sides or almost parallel-sided in middle part and weakly narrowing toward hind angles, moderately to strongly, roundly or almost angularly narrowing toward well-pronounced

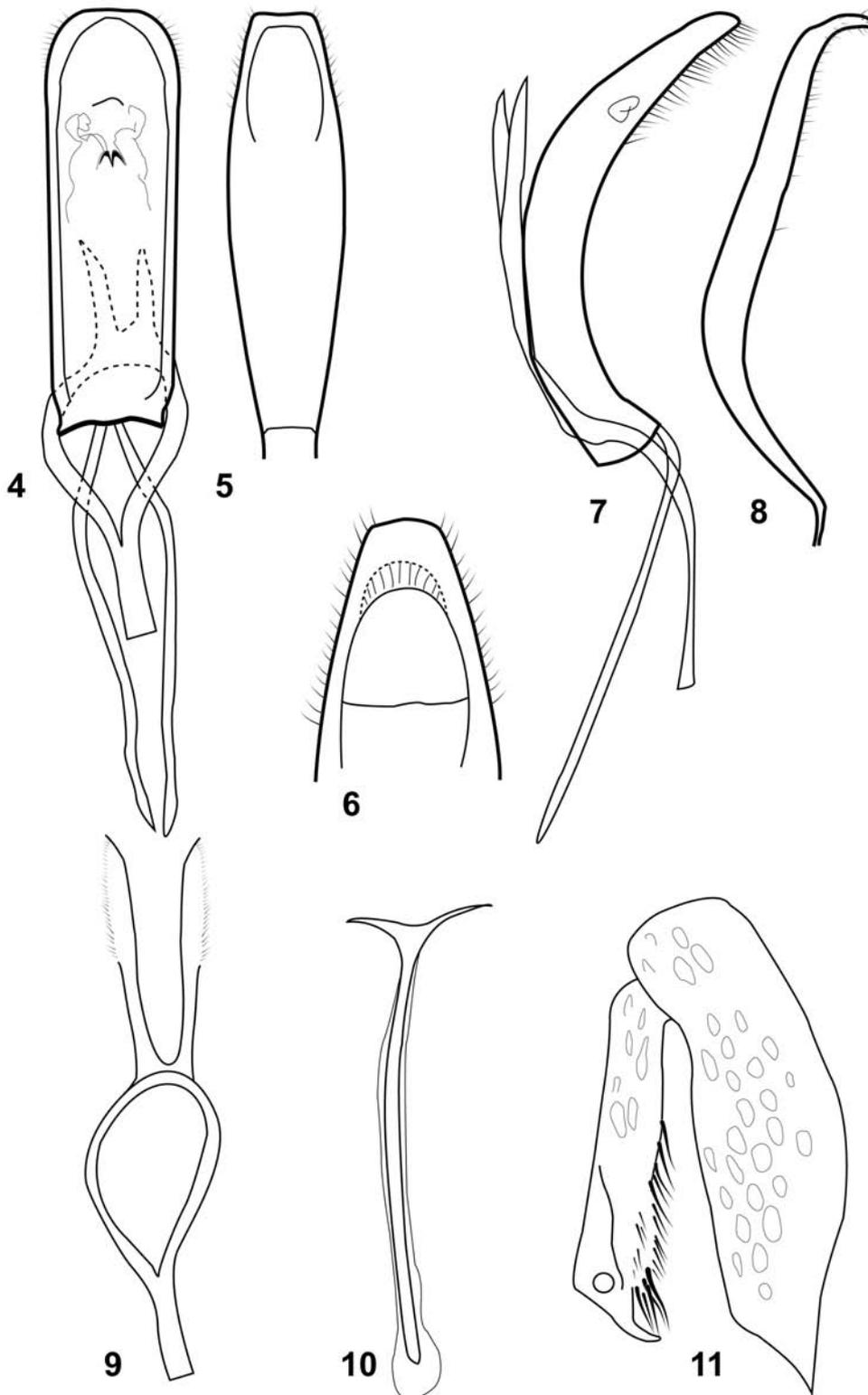


Fig. 4–11. *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999, male genitalia and fore femur and tibia (11).
 4, 5 – aedeagus, dorsal view; 6 – apex of aedeagus, dorsal view; 7, 8 – aedeagus, lateral view; 9 – tegmen, dorsal view; 10 – spiculum gastrale, dorsal view. 4, 7, 9 – *M. margaritae* sp. n.; 5, 6, 8 – *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905).

Рис. 4–11. *Melanobaris* Alonso-Zarazaga et Lyal, 1999, гениталии самца и передние бедро и голень (11).
 4, 5 – эдеагус сверху; 6 – вершина эдеагуса сверху; 7, 8 – эдеагус сбоку; 9 – тегмен сверху; 10 – spiculum gastrale сверху. 4, 7, 9 – *M. margaritae* sp. n.; 5, 6, 8 – *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905).

but not deep apical constriction. Base weakly obtuse-angularly protruding posteriad. Disc moderately and evenly convex in cross-section and weakly and regularly convex longitudinally. Punctuation moderately dense, formed of medium-sized punctures about 1.5 times as long as wide, separated by not less than own width; median line impunctate, widening at mid-length. Surface shining, with extremely fine microreticulation. Punctuation on sides of prothorax about twice as coarse as that on disc, punctures separate and almost round near coxal cavities and elongate, partly confluent in dorsal part of sides.

Scutellum small, deeply sloping anteriorly, narrowly rounded at apex; inner basal angles of elytra widely roundly diverging along scutellum.

Elytra 1.15 times as broad as pronotum, 1.57 times as long as broad, with rounded humeri, weakly and almost evenly rounded, or sides less rounded at mid-length. Disc moderately and evenly convex in cross-section, weakly convex longitudinally, more strongly sloping along apical declivity. Base finely margined, forming no entire carina, and faintly depressed along margination. Striae strongly widened and moderately deepened at base, then narrow to linear behind middle, at base 0.3–0.4 as wide as interstriae; punctures in apical half of 5th stria excising margins of the stria, 6–10th striae split at apex to large oblong punctures connected by fine linear striae. Intervals flat, shining, with extremely fine microreticulation, each with one row of medium-sized punctures; those on disc narrower than striae, and on lateral intervals, much smaller than punctures in striae. Elytra fused; hind wings vestigial (examined in the female collected on 6.07.1987).

Mesothorax laterally covered with dense, large, round, not foveiform punctures; mesepimeral suture indistinct among punctures. Metasternum only slightly longer than middle coxal cavities, with coarse round punctures medially and coarser oblong punctures deepening anteriorly anterolateral to mid-coxal cavities. Metepisternal suture well-defined, metepisterna narrow, with one row of medium-sized punctures doubled in posterior part of metepisterna.

Legs short and stout. Fore tibia moderately widening and strongly outcurved apically, with large unci and fine, dense pale spines on apical margin, those on outer apical angle of tibia not coarser than rest. Middle tibia straight, weakly widening apically, hind tibia slightly S-curved, strongly widening apically. Tarsi short, narrow; 1st segment of fore tarsus about as long as broad, strongly narrowed toward base; 2nd as broad as 1st, transverse, weakly widened apically, 3rd 1.25 times as broad as 2nd, as long as broad, almost parallel-sided, with lobes narrowly rounded apically; apical emargination not reaching mid-length of segment. Claw-segment 5 times as long as wide, slightly tapering apically, by two-thirds protruding from lobes of 3rd segment. Claws fine, free from base, their length subequal to width of claw-segment. Hair brushes on tarsal segments small, comprise fine hairs or setae, without coarse spines.

Venter coarsely but not densely punctate, punctures round to oblong; 3rd and 4th ventrites with one row of small punctures along posterior margin, base of 5th ventrite impunctate, rest of ventrite more densely punctate. Pygidium narrow, more than 3 times as broad as long, matte, weakly convex. 1st and 2nd ventrites shallowly and broadly depressed. 5th ventrite truncate apically.

Male genitalia as in Figs. 4, 7, 9, 10; aedeagus broad, parallel-sided along most of length, moderately and evenly bent dorso-ventrally, widely rounded toward short apical prominence.

Female. Body length 3.3–3.4 mm. Pronotum 1.05 times as broad as long, broadest somewhat before middle, weakly rounded, evenly narrowing toward base and roundly, not very strongly narrowing toward shallow apical constriction. Disc strongly and evenly convex in cross-section and much more strongly convex longitudinally than in male. Punctuation sparse to moderately dense; punctures in medial part of disc finer, elongate, separated by more than own width; those at sides larger, round or oblong. Elytra 1.64 times as long as broad. Pygidium with obtuse transverse convexity

separating ventral part from dorsal one. Base of abdomen not depressed. 5th ventrite apically weakly rounded.

Comparative diagnosis. The new species differs from the also wingless *M. amanicola* (Pic, 1905) as follows. Body smaller (in *M. amanicola*, body length 3–3.7 mm) and narrower; punctuation of pronotum finer and sparser, leaving free median line (punctures coarse, foveiform on sides of prothorax and present along median line on disc in *M. amanicola*); elytral striae engraved at base and rapidly thinning posteriorly (striae 1st–6th weakly widened and only slightly deepened at base, well-developed behind middle on disc in *M. amanicola*), antennae and legs dark brown (black in *M. amanicola*). The aedeagus of *M. amanicola* (fig. 5, 6, 8) is lanceolate, moderately narrowing toward apex, unevenly bent with apex angularly bent ventrally.

Distribution. Mount Hermon in Israel; up to date found only above 2000 m. The occurrence in the Syrian and Lebanese parts of Mt. Hermon is possible.

Etymology. The species is named after Prof. Margarita E. Ter-Minassian to commemorate this excellent scientist and brilliant personality, who has largely contributed to the investigation of the fauna of the arid regions of the Palearctic and development of international collaboration between scientists.

Holotype and 4 paratypes are preserved in the National Collection of Insects, Department of Zoology, the George S. Wise Faculty of Life Science, Tel Aviv University, Israel (TAU); 1 paratype is in the collection of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia (ZIN).

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