

***Paracoptochirus singularis* (Harold, 1868)
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Aphodiidae), the first record for Levant**

***Paracoptochirus singularis* (Harold, 1868)
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Aphodiidae) – первая находка из
Леванта**

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Ключевые слова: Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, новая находка, распространение, биология, Израиль.

Abstract. *Paracoptochirus singularis* (Harold, 1868), an Aphodiini known from Eastern Thrace and South-Eastern Romania, is recorded for the first time from Israel, Levant. A detailed geographic distribution of the species is given and hypotheses on its biology are advanced.

Резюме. *Paracoptochirus singularis* (Harold, 1868), представитель Aphodiini, известный из Восточной Фракии и Юго-Восточной Румынии, впервые указан для Израиля, Левант. Приведены подробные сведения о распространении вида и предложены гипотезы о его биологии.

Introduction

The Aphodiini genus *Paracoptochirus* Balthasar, 1963 includes four species distributed in South-Eastern Europe and Turkey [M. Dellacasa, G. Dellacasa, 2006]. Three of them seem to be strictly endemic and are known only by the type series: *P. kozanensis* Pittino, 2001, described on a single female from Greek Macedonia [Pittino, 2001]; *P. petrovitzi* Branco et Baraud, 1988, described on a male and a female from Eastern Turkey [Branco, Baraud, 1988]; *P. vignai* Carpaneto, Piattella, 1990, described on a single female from Greek Macedonia [Carpaneto, Piattella, 1990].

The fourth species, *P. singularis* (Harold, 1868), type species of the genus, is the subject of this note.

Abbreviations of collections

HNHM – Termesztudományi Múzeum Allattára, Budapest (Hungary);

MNHN – Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (France);

TAUI – National Collection of Insects at the Tel-Aviv University, Tel-Aviv (Israel);

ZMHB – Museum für Naturkunde der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin (Germany).

Paracoptochirus singularis (Harold, 1868)

Coptochirus singularis Harold, 1868: 396.

Paracoptochirus singularis: Balthasar, 1963: 277.

Coptochirus haemonius Reitter, 1903: 176; Schmidt, 1922: 369 (as junior synonym of *P. singularis*).

Type locality. "Constantinople" (Western Istanbul, European Turkey). According to Dellacasa et al. [2001], in the second half of the nineteenth century with "Constantinople" designated the town and surrounding area on the western side of Bosphorus, therefore in nowadays European Turkey (Eastern Thrace).

Type material. Lectotype, a male, designated by Branco and Baraud [1988], in ZMHB; a paralectotype male, untraceable, probably lost.

Type labelling. 1st, red, printed in black: "Type"; 2nd, white, printed in black: "26059"; 3rd, white, handwritten in black: "furvus / N / Constant. Krisdrn."; 4th, white, handwritten in black: "singularis / Harold / Constantinople"; 5th, white, printed in black: "Zool. Mus. / Berlin"; 6th, red, handwritten in black: "Paracoptochirus / singularis (Harold, 1869) / Lectotypus (♂). Dés. / T. Branco & J. Baraud, 1985"; 7th, printed and handwritten in black: "Paracoptochirus / singularis (Har.) / Vidit / Pittino, 1996"; 8th, white, printed and handwritten in black: "Paracoptochirus / singularis / (Harold) / Vidit / G. Dellacasa 1997".

Material examined. 3 specimens other than the lectotype, as follow. Greece: "Thessalia / Salonichi / leg. Emge", 1♀ (holotype of *Coptochirus haemonius*, Reitter collection, HNHM). Turkey: "Bosphore", 1♀, (MNHN). Israel: 'En Ya'qov", 1.XII.2006, I. Shtirberg leg. 1 ♂ (TAUI).

Distribution. North-Western Turkey [Harold, 1868]; Greek Macedonia [Reitter, 1903]; South-Eastern Romania [Ienistea, 1982]. Herein recorded from Israel for the first time.

Remarks. *Coptochirus singularis* was described by Harold [1868] on two males, one labelled "Constantinople", and the other "Kleinasien". Harold clearly stated that the specimen from Constantinople was the same mentioned by Erichson [1848], in a footnote, as "*A. furvus* Nob.", a name not accompanied by a description, a definition or even an indication, as requested by the article 12 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature [ICZN, 1999], hence not available. Branco and Baraud [1988], unable to trace the syntype from "Kleinasien", designated as lectotype the male from Constantinople.

The taxon was misinterpreted by the first authors who dealt with it. Kraatz [1870] wrongly synonymized *Coptochirus singularis* with *Euparia cypria* Baudi, 1870, an Eupariinae described from Cyprus. Notwithstanding that Harold [1870] himself clarified that the synonymy concerned *Euparia cypria* and *Ataenius horticola* Harold, 1869, Marseul [1877], Reitter [1892] and d'Orbigny [1896] continued to consider *Euparia cypria* as a junior synonym of *Coptochirus singularis*, with obvious mistakes concerning the known geographic distribution of the species. Particularly, Marseul's 1877 and d'Orbigny's 1896