

Male terminalia (Figs. 4-7). Surstyli subsymmetrical, in dorsal view inner surstylus slightly longer than outer (Fig. 4), straight with apical ends curved inwards; in lateral view (Figs. 5,6) slightly bent downwards, with blunt ends. Ejaculatory duct (Fig. 7) trifold with short tubiform ductuli; fused parameres asymmetrical.

Female, as male except for following characters. Eyes dichoptic. Frons broadened in the middle; silver-grey pubescent below, subshining black on upper part for twice the length of ocellar triangle. Face subequal in width to lower portion of frons. Front and mid femora with 1-2 spiny bristles basally; otherwise as in male but pilosity more conspicuous. Hind femora shining in lower part; ventrally with double row of 5 pale bristly hairs over apical half; anterodorsal and posterodorsal row of long pale hairs, otherwise with dispersed long pale hairs. Third costal section about half as long as fourth section.

Female terminalia (Figs. 8,9), base of ovipositor shining black with pale hairs; short and roundish below. Piercer shining yellowish brown, stout and slightly downcurved; longer than base, reaching till posterior margin of second sternum.

Etymology: derived from the Greek word " Κομάων " meaning "the long-haired one", after the description of Achilles by Homeros.

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Plataraea verbekei sp.n., a new Callicerini from Romania (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

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Abstract

A new species of Plataraea from Romania is described and illustrated.

Introduction

During a trip in the north-eastern province Dobroudja, a number of staphylinids were collected with among them an unknown *Plataraea* species, caught by sweeping over low vegetation in a deciduous wood.

The genus *Plataraea* THOMSON, 1858, belonging to the *Callicerini*, contains seven European species. Most of them occur in the southern countries.

The last revision of this group was made by BENICK (1934-35). BENICK's work solved many taxonomical problems; however, we still found an undescribed species.

Plataraea are medium-sized (3-5 mm), yellow-brown species, closely related to the genus *Atheta*.

The following species were examined (all in the collections of the K.B.I.N.): *P. brunnea* (FABRICIUS, 1798) from Belgium, France, Germany, Italy; *P. dubiosa* (BENICK, 1934) from Germany; *P. interurbana* (BERNHAEUER, 1899) from Germany, Czechoslovakia; *P. nigrifrons* (ERICHSON, 1840) from Belgium, France; *P. elegans* (BENICK, 1934) from Austria and *P. fiorii* (BERNHAEUER, 1908) from Italy and compared with the following new species.

Plataraea verbekei sp.n. (fig. 1-4)

Type material: Romania: Babadag (Dobroudja), V.1987, 2 males & 2 females (leg. G. HAGHEBAERT) male holotype and 1 female paratype in coll. of the K.B.-I.N.; 1 male paratype in coll. of the author; 1 female paratype in coll. of the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle "GRIGORE ANTIPA" in Bucuresti - România.

Diagnosis: The new species is very similar to *P. interurbana*. Externally *P. verbekei* may be distinguished from *interurbana* by the darker color and by the shape

of the hindparts of tergum 6 in the male. It is particularly well-characterized by the sexual features of male and female.

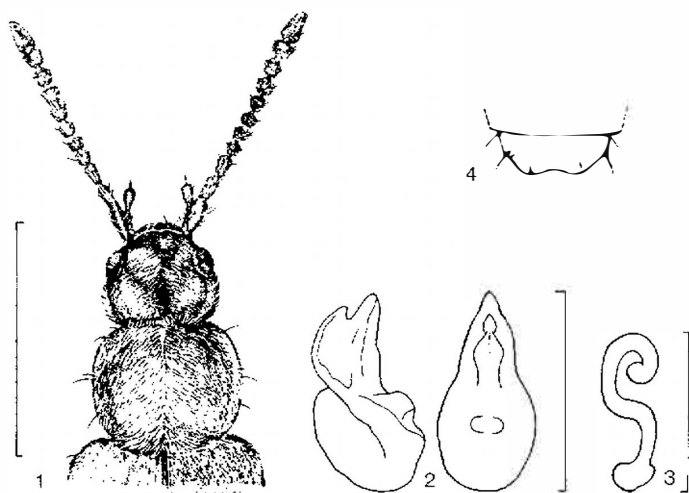


Fig. 1-4: *Plataraea verbekei* sp.n.; 1. head and pronotum holotype male; scale: 1.25 mm; 2. aedeagus paratype; scale: 0.506 mm; 3. spermatheca paratype; scale: 0.341 mm; 4. tergum 6 from paratype male.

Description:

Male: head black; pronotum blackish-brown; elytra pale-brown, around scutellum darker; abdomen piceus, rather shining, hind part of terga yellowish (length: 4.2 mm).

Antennae slender: first - second and base of third segment yellowish, segment 4-11 black, terminal segment more than twice as long as wide (length: 1.5 mm).

Palpi: dark-yellow; mandibles: reddish-brown; labrum and clypeus: yellow. Head narrower than pronotum, eyes large, tempora somewhat longer, slender but clearly punctate, around tempora denser punctate, clearly alutaceous; pubescence yellowish (ratio L. & w.: 0.55 mm - 0.61 mm).

Pronotum narrower than or scarcely as wide as elytra-humerus, maximum width a little before middle, posterior angles strongly rounded, weaker punctate than head, the whole clearly alutaceous; pronotal pubescence yellowish, type III (after Lohse) (ratio L. & w.: 0.68 mm - 0.81 mm).

Elytra longer than together wide, at the base somewhat broader than humerus;

rather strong, granular punctation, with a clear dense yellow pubescence.

Abdomen: first segment smaller than base of elytra; terga 1-4 with basal furrows, pleuron with a long and dense yellowish pubescence; base of the first two terga with long yellow pubescence; segment 3-5 with scarce yellowish pubescence; entire base of terga 1-4 yellowish, fifth tergum with a broad yellow base; propygidium entirely yellow; the whole abdomen clearly alutaceous and punctated, rather shining; hind parts of tergum 6 like in fig. 4.

Legs yellowish; second and particularly posterior tarsus long; posterior tarsus a little shorter than posterior tibia; segment 1-4 from posterior tarsus equally long, segment 5 as long as the three first segments together.

Aedeagus like in fig. 2.

Female: very similar to male; hind parts of tergum 6 less impressed; spermatheca like in fig. 3.

Etymology.

The new species is dedicated to my friend K. VERBEKE, eminent Belgian entomologist who introduced me to the systematics of Coleoptera.

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