

SECOND KNOWN LOCALITY FOR
COENOPSIMORPHUS EUROPAEUS COLONNELLI, 2016
WITH DESCRIPTION OF THE FEMALE GENITALIA
(COLEOPTERA: CURCULIONIDAE)

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Abstract

A second locality is given for the recently described *Coenopsimorphus europaeus* Colonnelli, 2016. One living female specimen was collected in Peloponnese, Mt. Likodimo. As the type material consisted of dead and partly fragmented specimens, the female genitalia of the species are depicted, compared and discussed for the first time.

Keywords: Curculionidae, Holcorhinini, new record, faunistics, female genitalia, Greece, Peloponnese

Introduction

The genus *Coenopsimorphus* Desbrochers des Loges, 1897 of the entimine tribe Holcorhinini Desbrochers des Loges, 1898 comprises four species from North Africa (Pelletier 2008), a mysterious, never re-found and of taxonomically uncertain position species lacking of type specimen(s) only once collected in Sicily (thus since categorized as *incertae sedis* with its original combination *Holcorhinus siculus* Seidlitz, 1868), and the recently described Greek species *C. europaeus* Colonnelli, 2016. Three dead specimens, or parts of them, led to the description of *C. europaeus*. These were collected under stones on Gavdos Island (Colonnelli 2016). On an excursion to the southern Peloponnese, the first intact living female specimen of this remarkable species could be collected, allowing a precise description of internal features.

Results and discussion

The single female specimen (Fig. 1), length 4.3 mm, covered with rather dark brownish scales (much brighter in type specimens), was collected by sifting leaf litter, mosses and cushion plants around the entrance of a shallow chalk-stone cave, called “Dragon Cave” (Fig. 2). The surrounding vegetation consisted of typical Mediterranean maquis with *Pistacia* sp., *Quercus ilex*, *Rhamnus* sp., *Phlomis* sp., and cushions of *Teucrium* sp. The label data are as follows: “GREECE, Peloponnes, E-Pylos,

Second known locality for *Coenopsimorphus europaeus*



Fig. 1. Habitus of *Coenopsimorphus europaeus* Colonnelli, 2016.



Fig. 2. Habitat below Mt. Likodimo on Peloponnese.

Mt. Likodimo, Kokkino env., 36.909356, 21.848963, 700 m, 26.9.2016, leg. C. Germann” (coll. C. Germann, Rubigen), and will be added to the freely available catalogue of Greek weevils (Germann et al. 2018).

The examination of the specimen allowed to provide a supplement to the original description. In particular, female genitalia are illustrated here for the first time since there is hardly any information available on female genitalia of *Coenopsimorphus*. In comparison with the only drawings published so far (Pelletier 2008), the spermatheca of *C. europaeus* (Fig. 8) shows a much longer tube of the cornu, especially along the middle part of it, although at its base the short and thick ramus and the tiny nodulus are well comparable with those of the other species of the genus. The sternite VIII (or spiculum ventrale) has the apodeme a bit shorter than the plate, and the basis broadened (Figs 3 and 4). The inverted V-shaped tergite VIII (Figs 5 & 6) is strongly sclerotized, in lateral view oblong-oval, and has shell-like sides and apex set with long curved sensillae. The ovipositor (gonocoxites) is weakly sclerotized, L-shaped, at apex with styli and a single pointed sensilla (Fig. 7).

The down-folded plate of the spiculum ventrale, also termed “umbrella-shaped” (Borovec 2009) is often encountered in combination with a strongly sclerotized and bowed tergite VIII most probably acting both in combination as a prolongation of the abdomen to e.g. support the ovipositor when laying eggs, or facilitating copulation itself. This structure appears in several entimine tribes and within some but not all their genera, as for example in Byrsopagini Lacordaire, 1863, Trachyphloeini Gistel, 1848 (Borovec 2009) and Geonemini Gistel, 1848. Inside this last tribe there is the genus *Barynotus* Germar, 1817 where species belonging to different subgenera show both forms of the plate of sternite VIII, namely flat, fan-shaped and at the same level of apodeme as in *B. maculatus* Boheman, 1842 or *B. margaritaceus* Germar, 1823, whereas this plate is umbrella-shaped in *B. obscurus* (Fabricius, 1775). This indicates that the specific shape of both sternite and tergite VIII may furthermore depend on functional aspects as egg depositing behaviour or mating.



Figs 3-8. Sclerotized parts of the female genitalia of *Coenopsimorphus europaeus* Colonnelli, 2016. **Figs 3, 4.** Sternite VIII, dorsal and lateral views. **Figs 5, 6.** Tergite VIII, lateral and ventral views. **Fig. 7.** Ovipositor. **Fig. 8.** Spermatheca.

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