

NEW RECORD OF *DOLICHOPODA* FROM NORTHERN IRAN
(Orthoptera, Rhaphidophoridae)

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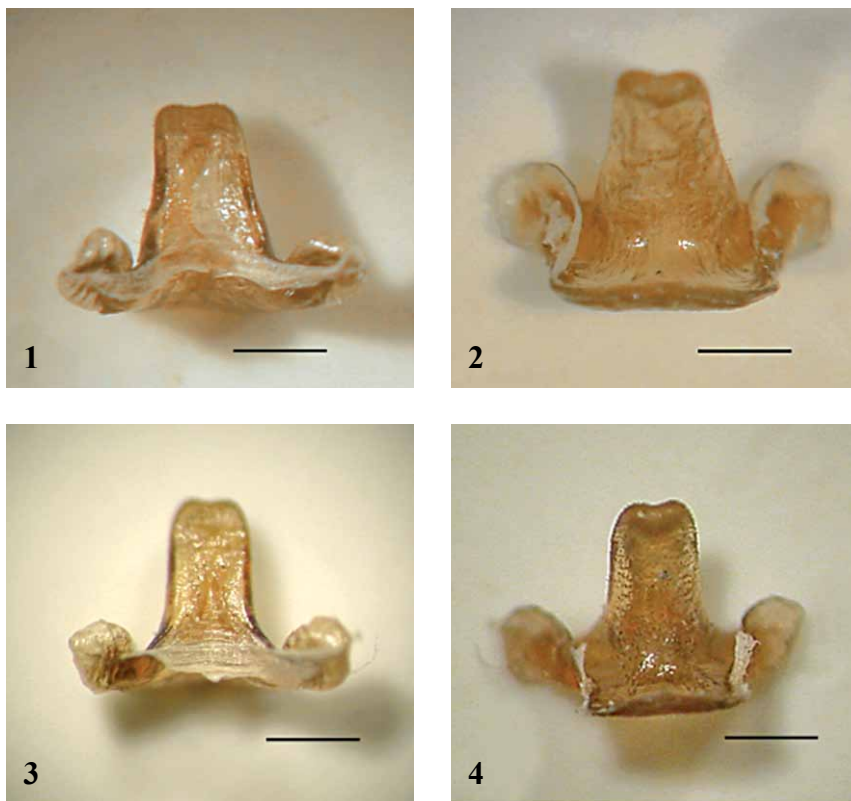
The genus *Dolichopoda* Bolivar, 1880 (subfamily Dolichopodainae) inhabits caves and in some cases epigeal habitats of Southern Europe and Asia Minor including to date a total of 51 species (Eades et al. 2012). This genus is mainly widespread in the Mediterranean area from the Pyrenees to the Caucasus (Baccetti 1982, Di Russo & Sbordonì 1998); its diversity in terms of species richness peaks in Southern and South Eastern Europe (Mediterranean basin, Apennines, Balkan and Peloponnesus). In the Caucasian area, only two species of *Dolichopoda* are known thus far: *D. euxina* Semenov, 1901 described from some specimens collected in two caves of the western slopes of the Caucasus, in the Suchumi district (Georgia), and *D. hyrcana* Bey-Bienko, 1969, from the Lenkoran (Talysh) district in eastern Transcaucasia. A third species, *D. noctivaga* Di Russo & Rampini, 2007 is widespread in caves and epigeal habitats in Northern Turkey throughout the Black Sea region (Taylan et al. 2011). In this note we report the record of a new sample of *Dolichopoda* from Northern Iran. The morphological study of this material allowed us to attribute the collected specimens to *Dolichopoda hyrcana* (figs 1-4), whose geographic distribution now extends eastwards to the Caspian region of Iran.

***Dolichopoda hyrcana* Bey-Bienko, 1969**

MATERIAL EXAMINED: Northern Iran, Alborz Mts., Chalus region, 23-30.VIII.2009, 1800-2500 m a.s.l., V. Gurko leg., 14 ♂♂, 25 ♀♀, 15 nymphs.

All the specimens were collected on the Northern slopes of Alborz Mts. at an altitude ranging between 1800 and 2500 m a.s.l. This area is

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Figs 1-4 – Comparison of epiphallus shape in *Dolichopoda hyrcana* Bey-Bienko, 1969: male from North Iran, dorsal view (1), ventral view (2); male from Lenkoran (Azerbaijan; type locality), dorsal view (3), ventral view (4). Scale bar: 2 mm

covered by the Hyrcanian forest, composed mostly of deciduous species, forming a narrow arc from Talish in the Republic of Azerbaijan to the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains in North Iran (Akhani et al. 2010). As found for *D. euxina* and *D. noctivaga* from Caucasus and Turkish black sea region (Taylan et al. 2011), presence of *D. hyrcana* appears strongly associated with thermo-mesophilous forest formations, that for their particular bioclimatic conditions (i.e high amount of annual precipitations and high percentages of air humidity) could represent a primary ecological habitat for this species.

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SUMMARY

The record of a new sample of *Dolichopoda* from Northern Iran is reported. The morphological study of this material allowed the authors to attribute the studied specimens to *D. hyrcana* Bey-Bienko, 1969, whose geographic distribution now extends eastwards to the Alborz Mountains in North Iran.

RIASSUNTO

Un nuovo campione di *Dolichopoda* proveniente dall'Iran settentrionale è stato studiato dagli autori. Lo studio morfologico di tale materiale ci ha permesso di attribuire questi campioni alla specie *D. hyrcana* Bey-Bienko, 1969, che quindi estende il suo areale verso oriente, dall'Azerbaijan meridionale ai Monti Alborz in Iran.

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