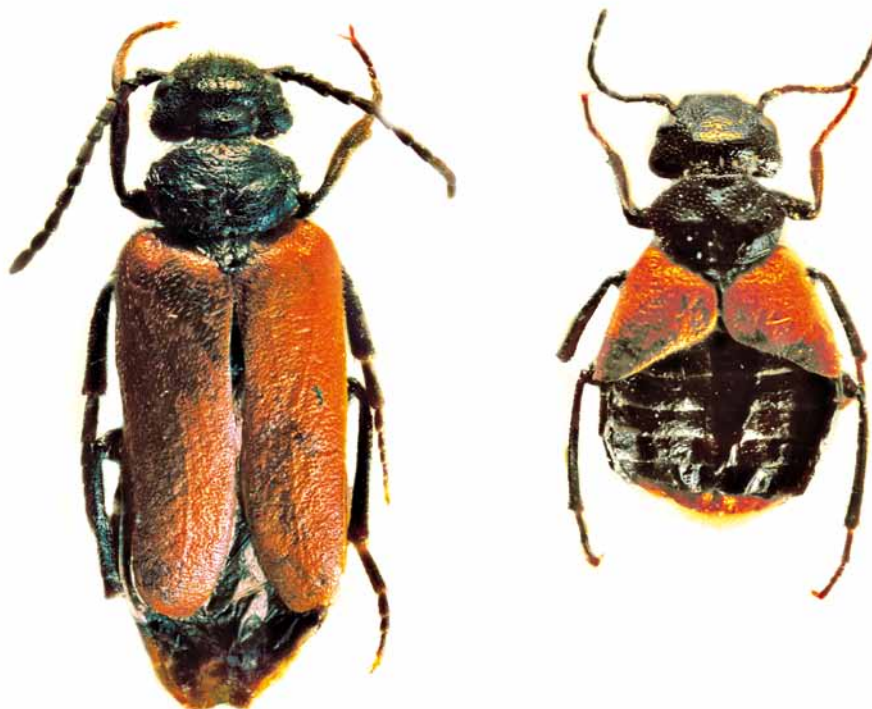


Short scientific noteSubmitted: October 28th, 2016 - Accepted: November 15th, 2016 - Published: December 31st, 2016***Sitarobrachys thoracica* (Kraatz, 1862): new genus and species for the blister beetle fauna of Turkey (Coleoptera: Meloidae)**

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Abstract*Sitarobrachys thoracica*, belonging to a monotypic Mediterranean-Macaronesian genus of Meloidae Nemognathinae, is recorded for the first time from southern Turkey. The genus results widely distributed around the Mediterranean Basin and in the eastern Canary Islands.**Key words:** *Sitarobrachys*, Turkey.**Introduction***Sitarobrachys* Reitter, 1895 is a blister beetle monotypic genus of the subfamily Nemognathinae, distributed around the Mediterranean Basin and in the eastern Canary Islands. The taxonomy of the genus is rather complex, due to the great sexual dimorphism (Fig. 1) and the variability ofsome morphological characters. It was clarified by Bologna (1994a, 1994b), who pointed out that the following taxa, described from distinct and far circummediterranean localities, are all synonyms of the type species, *Stenoria thoracica* Kraatz, 1862 (described from Greece): (i) *Sitarobrachys brevipennis* Reitter, 1895 (central Bulgaria: Stara Planina); (ii) *Sitarobrachys buigasi* Escalera, 1909 (SW**Fig. 1** – *Sitarobrachys thoracica* (Kraatz, 1862) male and female (specimens from Spain, Canary Islands, Fuerteventura).

Morocco: Essaouira); (iii) *Sitarobrachys alferii* Pic, 1913 (N Egypt: Dekela near Alexandria); (iv) *Sitarobrachys proxima* Escalera, 1914 (SW Morocco: Essaouira; see also Faucheaux 2011).

This rare and little-known species was recorded also from other NE and Saharan Moroccan localities (Oujda; Oued Mird), N Algeria (Mascara), Palestine (Wadi El Fari-ah), eastern Canary Islands (Fuerteventura) (see Bologna, 1994a, 1994b for a review of all records) and from the extreme SW Spain (Tarifa; Ruiz, 1996).

Results

No recent records occurred from East Mediterranean, probably because of the specialized biology of the species, which is parasite of wild bees; in fact, the brachyelytrous and wingless female does not exits the bee nests and also males remain close to the host nests. For this reason I consider significant to point out the presence of the genus also in SE Turkey: 1 male, Halfeti, 10 Apr 1992, O. Hovorka coll. (coll. Dvořák, now housed at the Department of Entomology, National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic,

NMPC). Halfeti is a town in the Şanlıurfa Province, near the Syrian border, characterized by dry steppe habitat.

This new record complete the range of this monotypic genus in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin, until now cited only from Bulgaria, Greece, Palestine and Egypt, and represents a novelty for the Turkish fauna of Meloidae.

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