



Contribution to the knowledge of the weevil subgenus *Arammichnus* Gozis, genus *Otiorhynchus* Germar (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) from Sicily and the Sicilian islands

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Abstract

New data are presented on the taxonomy and distribution of some species of *Otiorhynchus* Germar, subgenus *Arammichnus* Gozis, in Sicily. *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*) *ferrarii* Miller is recorded from Sicily for the first time. Three new species are described: *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*) *vagans* n. sp., *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*) *pseudosetosulus* n. sp., and *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*) *adrianus* n. sp. The number of known *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*) species thereby rises to 66; 25 of which are present in Sicily and the lesser Sicilian islands.

Key words: Curculionidae, new records, new species, Sicily

Introduction

In the course of an inventory of the biodiversity of Sicily various species of *Otiorhynchus* Germar belonging to subgenus *Arammichnus* Gozis were collected. Among these, some were poorly known with regards to their distribution in Sicily, one species is newly recorded for the fauna of the island, and three other species are new to science.

Magnano (1992a, 1992b, 1993a, 1993b, 1996, 1999) systematically reviewed the species of *Otiorhynchus* (*Arammichnus*). He recognized 63 species, 38 of which were recorded as present in Italy. Subsequently Osella *et al.* (2005) reported 21 species from Sicily including the Sicilian islands.

It is remarkable that 11 out the 19 species groups proposed by Magnano in the above cited papers are represented in Sicily. As for the geographic distribution of the Sicilian species, it is furthermore noteworthy that all species are endemic, except the cosmopolitan *O. cribricollis* Gyllenhal and *O. calabrensis* Stierlin which also occurs in Calabria. Most of the Sicilian species are recorded from a single site or a small area, whereas *O. ocellifer* Reitter and *O. scabrosoides* Stierlin – which were never collected again following their respective descriptions in 1912 and 1877 – are only known to occur in “Sicily”.

Material and methods

All studied specimens were collected using beating trays, entomological nets, and litter reducers, or by looking under stones. The collected specimens were glued on entomological label paper. If extracted, the genital apparatus was soaked in diluted KOH and mounted in Euparal on another label placed on the same pin of the specimen from which it was extracted. Photomicrographs were made using a Nikon digital camera DXM1200 mounted on a Nikon SMZ1000 stereomicroscope. Measurements of body length exclude the head. The descriptive terminology follows van der Berg (1972). Types and other specimens will be stored in the