



Ochthebius ustaoglu sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae), a new species of the *O. metallescens* group from Turkey

E. TARIK TOPKARA^{1,4}, MANFRED JÄCH² & AHMET KASAPOĞLU³

¹Ege University, Faculty of Fisheries, Department of Hydrobiology, Bornova-Izmir-Turkey, 35100

²Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Burgring 7, A-1010 Wien, Austria. E-mail: manfred.jaech@nhm-wien.ac.at

³Mustafa Kemal University, Science Faculty, Biology Department, Hatay, Turkey. E-mail: aksp25@yahoo.com

⁴Corresponding author: E-mail: esattopkara@gmail.com

To date, 73 species of *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 have been reported from Turkey. Twenty-seven of these species are endemic to Turkey (Ertorun, Jäch, Kasapoğlu & Darilmaz, in prep.). During faunistic surveys in Erzurum and Denizli, a new species of the *Ochthebius metallescens* species group was discovered. In the present paper, the new species is described, illustrated, and notes on its habitat and distribution are provided.

Acronyms:

ESFM Ege University, Faculty of Fisheries Museum, Izmir, Turkey
NMW Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria

Ochthebius ustaoglu sp. nov.

Type locality: Small stream, ca. 50 cm wide, 40°35'09"N 40°51'47"E, ca. 2200 m a.s.l., Ovit Pass, ca. 30 km NNW İspir, Erzurum, northeastern Turkey.

Material examined. Holotype male (NMW): “TR: ERZURUM Ovit Pass \ leg. Kasapoğlu 03. VII. 2000”. Paratypes: 5 males, 6 females (ESFM, NMW): “TURKEY: Prov. Denizli ca. 30 km SW of Beyağaç Lake Kartal, 1903 m a.s.l. 16.VII.2010 leg. E.T. Topkara”.

Description. 1.75–2.10 mm long. Black, legs sometimes slightly paler dark brown. Anterior corners of pronotum acute, postocular excision and postocular tooth usually well developed; lateral margins of pronotal ears straight, slightly convergent anteriorly. Metaventricle posteromedially glabrous.

Sexual dimorphism: Weakly pronounced. Explanate margin of elytra of females very slightly wider than in males, tips of elytra hardly noticeably more acuminate and more conjointly rounded. The shapes of labrum and protarsi are similar in both sexes. Posterior margin of terminal abdominal tergite of females with blunt spines.

Variability. Postocular emargination of pronotum and postocular tooth weakly or well developed. Pronotal disc moderately to densely punctate, glabrous. Length/width ratio of main part of aedeagal distal lobe varies considerably, from 1.73 to 2.16 (holotype: 1.86).

Differential diagnosis. Due to the high variability, we have not been able to detect significant external characters to distinguish the new species from *Ochthebius hofratvukovitsi*. The new species is, however, sufficiently characterized by its unusual aedeagus morphology.

Aedeagus (Fig. 1): Main piece ca. 320–360 µm long, almost evenly curved (lateral view), slightly attenuate near middle, apex obliquely truncate. Distal lobe very conspicuously shaped: main part moderately wide, subcylindrical, subrectangular, about twice as long as wide, baso-ventrally and apically widely rounded; ventral margin at about apical third with a somewhat ax blade-shaped appendage, more or less compressed laterally, its distal apex widely rounded, basal apex acuminate and directed towards tip of main piece. Parameres more or less symmetrical, right one slightly longer than left one, close to main piece, inserted ventrally near basal 0.3 of main piece; apices with a few short setae.

Discussion. Despite the considerable linear distance between the two populations of about 1000 km, we could not detect significant aedeagal differences. However, examination of more material and molecular data will be necessary to bring forth conclusive evidence that the populations from Denizli and Erzurum really belong to a single species.