Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte) – new record for the Palaearctic Region (Coleoptera: Anobiidae)

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Abstact. The occurrence of *Ozognathus cornutus* (LeConte, 1859) in the Mediterranean Region (Madeira Is., Malta and Tunisia) is documented for the first time. The genus is new for the Palaearctic Region, where it was only previously recorded from the Nearctic and Neotropical Regions.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Ozognathus* (Anobiidae, Ernobiinae, Ozognathini) was described by LeConte (1861) for *Anobium cornutum* LeConte, 1859 from California (USA). At that time, the newely erected genus was included in the subfamily Dryophilinae (which subfamily formed part of the family Ptinidae, subfamily Anobiinae, tribe Anobiini, group Dryophili). The genus *Ozognathus* was placed besides the genera *Dryophilus* Chevrolat, 1832, *Xestobium* Motschulsky, 1845 and *Philoxylon* Le Conte, 1861 (= *Ernobius* Thomson, 1859) and all these mentioned genera were included in the subfamily Ernobiinae. Fall (1905) included three North American *Ozognathus* species and later, Pic (1912) grouped together seven species, namely from USA, Mexico, Guatemala and Chile. Later, Pic (1923) described two other species from Chile, and eight year later (Pic, 1931) other species were described from Colombia. Recently, a further species was described from Mexico (White, 1975).

Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859) was described from California (USA) and White (1982) confirmed its occurrence in the mentioned area only. For the first time, the species was found in the Palaearctic Region, first in Madeira, then Malta and later in Tunisia. It is clear, that these findings are not only adventitious, but that this species is adventive, and is able to acclimatize perfectly in the hot parts of the Euro-Mediterranean Region. According to our opinion, it is possible that this species will be found in other Mediterranean territories in a relatively short time. In the literature, there is no information about the biology and early stages of this species. Specimens from Tunisia were reared from non specified dry fruit.

MATERIAL

Ozognathus cornutus (LeConte, 1859)
(Figs 1-2)

Material examined. Madeira, Funchal, 23.-30.xii.1996, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, W. Kronblad lgt., G. Gillerfors coll.; Malta, Marsa, Ghammieri, 20.vi.2004, 1 ♂; 15.x.2004, 2 ♂♂; Marsa, Ghammieri, 23.x.2004, 4 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀; Marsa, Ghammieri, 10.x.2004, 5 ♂♂; Marsa, Ghammieri, 10-30.iii.2005, 7 ♂♂ (all specimens were collected by the window sill in an office building); Tal-Munxar (St. Thomas Bay), 5.i.2003, 1 ♂ (coastal, in decaying seaweed); Zejtun, 17.x.2004, 1 ♂, all D. Mifsud lgt., D. Mifsud and P. Zahradník coll.; Tunisia, Djerba I., Aghir env., 20.xi.-2.xii.2004, 40 ♂♂, 50 ♀♀, J. Borowski lgt., J. Borowski and P. Zahradník coll..

Short description. *Ozognathus cornutus* (LeConte, 1859) is a small species, 1.5-2.8 mm long. Dorsal surface is blackish brown to black, with short dense adjacent pubescence. It is a species with distinct sexual dimorphism, with males having a long horn arising from each mandible whereas this is completely absent in females. Angles between both horns, between horn and head and pronotum, and form and curvature of horns show extreme variability in the material examined.

CATALOGUE OF THE WORLD SPECIES GENUS *OZOGNATHUS*

Ozognathus LeConte, 1861
Durangoum Pic, 1903
Micranobium Gorham, 1883

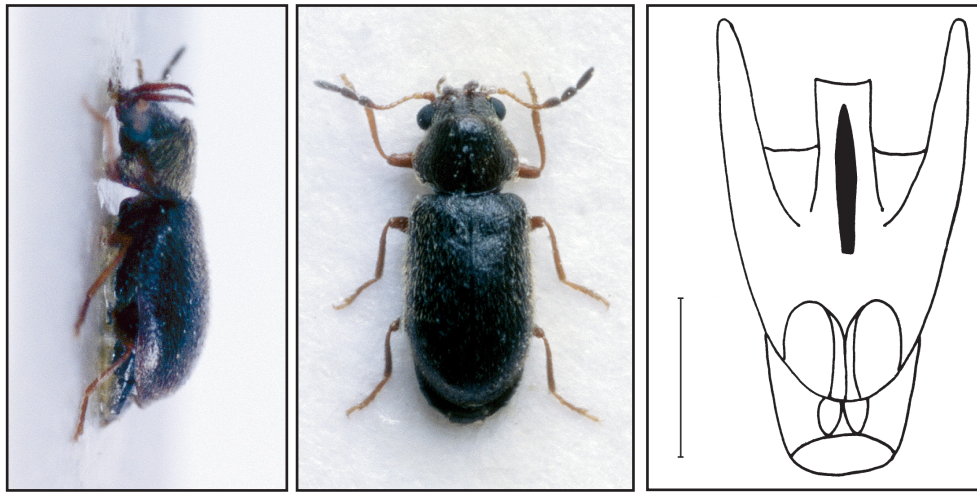

Fig. 1: Lateral view a) – male, b) – female.
Fig. 2: Aedeagus (scale 0.1 mm).

cornutus (LeConte, 1859) – Madeira Is., Malta, Tunisia (all three introduced), USA (California)
missellus LeConte, 1865
dubius Fall, 1905 – USA (Arizona, Colorado)
elongatus Pic, 1923 – Chile
exiguus (Gorham, 1883) – Grenada, Guatemala, St. Vincent I.
floridanus LeConte, 1878 – USA (Florida, Kentucky, New Jersey, Texas, Virginia)
grossus White, 1975 – Mexico
hirsutus Pic, 1923 – Chile
inarmatus Pic, 1904 – Chile
mexicanus (Pic, 1903) – Mexico
rufescens Pic, 1904 – Chile
seileri Pic, 1931 – Colombia

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