

New species of *Ptinus* s. str. from Sardinia and adjacent islands (Coleoptera: Ptinidae)

Jerzy BOROWSKI

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Department of Forest Protection and Ecology
ul. Nowoursynowska 159/34, 02-776 Warsaw, Poland
e-mail: jerzy_borowski@sggw.pl

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Abstract. *Ptinus mediterraneus* sp. n. from Sardinia and adjacent islands is described. Among representatives of the nominotypical subgenus it is distinctive by the presence of scales on pronotum - this is the only known instance in *Ptinus* s. str. where pronotum is partly covered with scales in both sexes.

INTRODUCTION

Species of the genus *Ptinus* Linnaeus, 1767 are distributed on almost all continents. In the Palaearctic Region 109 species are known, classified in 6 subgenera (Borowski 2007). To the largest, *Ptinus* s. str., belong 44 species, occurring mainly in the mediterranean area.

Representatives of this subgenus are morphologically very similar to one another, being usually brown in colouration and having - besides pubescence - white recumbent scales on elytra. In two species, *Ptinus villiger* (Reitter, 1884) and *Ptinus podolicus* Iablokoff-Khnzorian et Karapetyan, 1991 - but only in females - white hair-like scales may occur on the basal part of pronotum.

Hereby the description of a new species of *Ptinus* s. str. is presented, in which the pronotum is partly covered with white scales both in males and females, what distinguishes it from all the remaining representatives of the subgenus.

MATERIALS AND USED ABBREVIATIONS

The paper is based on the materials loaned from the following institutions:

- DEI Deutsches Entomologisches Institut, Eberswalde, Germany;
- FA Fernando Angelini, Francavilla Fontana, Italy;
- FS Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main, Germany;
- HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary;
- HP Helio Pierotti, Oderzo, Italy;
- JB author's collection;
- MCSN Museo Civico di Storia Naturale „G. Doria”, Genova, Italy.

DESCRIPTION

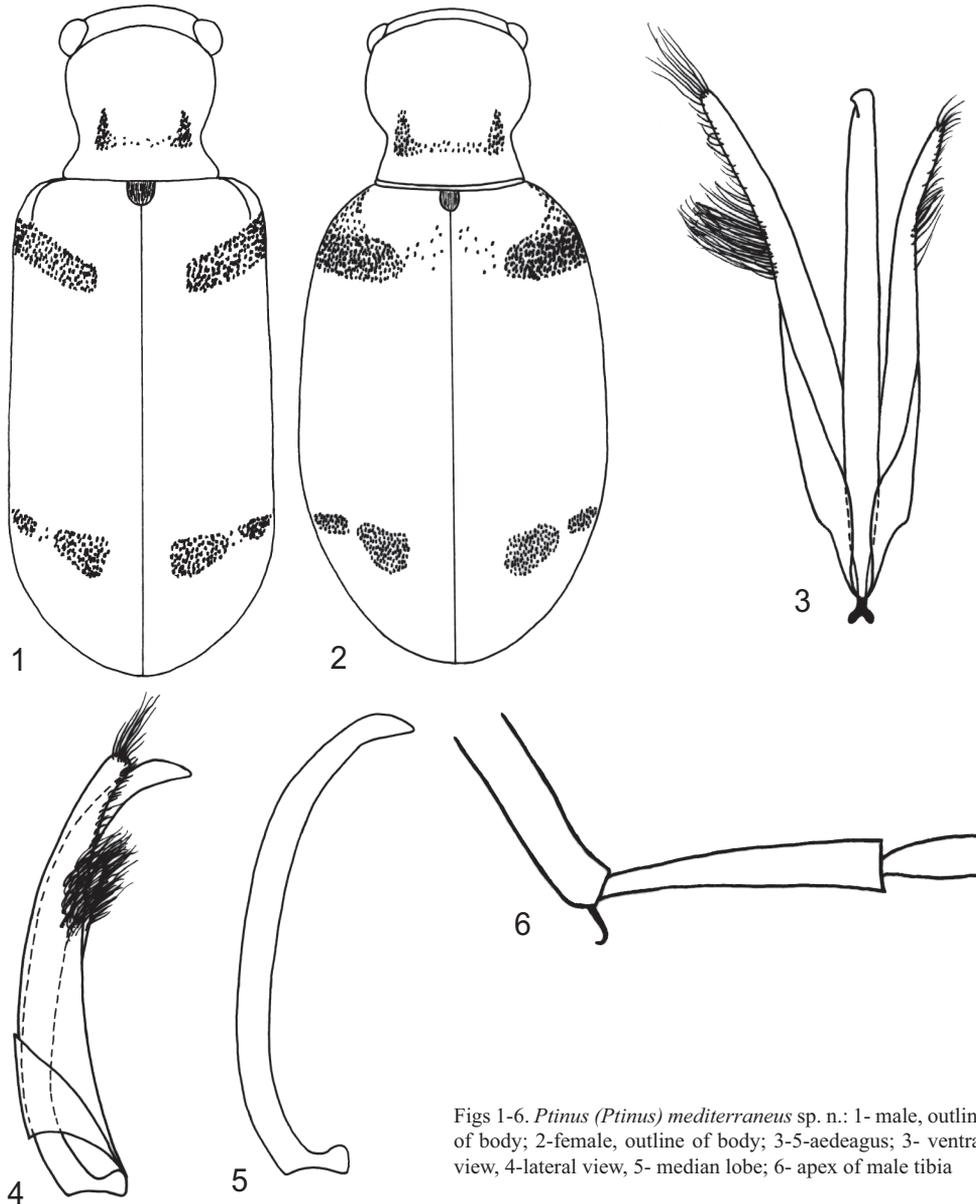
Ptinus (Ptinus) mediterraneus sp. n.

(Figs 1-6)

Type material. Holotype (♂): „Sardinia, Aritzo, Mte. Genargentu, Geo. C. Krüger, coll. O. Leonhard“ (DEI); Paratypes: (1 ♂): „Sardinia, Reitter“, (HNHM); (1 ♀): „Sardegna str. Fonni - Dèsulò su rio Aratu (NU), 950 m., 8.v.95, leg. Angelini“, (FA); (1 ♀): „Sardegna - Siniscola (NU), M. Albo, dint. cent. Guzzurra, 800 m, 4.v.1995, leg. Angelini“, (FA); (1 ♀): „Nordöstl. Villanova, 560 m., Sard., 11.iv.55, H. Kahmann Exkurs.“, (FS); (1 ♀): „Is. Tavolara (SS), 24.iv.90, Pierotti“, (HP); (1 ♂): „Arzana (NU), Orriunas, m. 1400, 10.vi.2001, Pierotti“, (HP); (1 ♀): „Aglientu (SS), 30.v.2004, Pierotti“, (HP); (1 ♀): „Sadali (NU), *Cistus monspeliensis*, 20.v.94, Pierotti“, (HP); (1 ♀, 1 ♂): „Sarule (NU) M. Gonare, 31.v.2004, Pierotti“, (JB); (1 ♀): „Sardegna N-E, Archipelago di La Maddalena (prov. SS), Isola Caprera, Stagna Pi, sotto, Mirto, 7.iv.1986, R. Poggi“, (MCSN); (1 ♀): „Corsica, Ponte Leccia, 27.v.88, Pierotti“, (HP).

Description. Male (Fig. 1). Length 2.6-2.8 mm. Body pale - to dark-brown. Antennal joints elongated, erectly pilose. Eyes large, hemispherical, strongly protruding from outline of head. Head recumbently setulose, only on anterior part of front setae erect and directed forward. Pronotal surface lustrous, sculptured with small and slightly convex papillae, with inconspicuous blunt tubercle on each side and elongated, slightly elevated one at middle just before constriction. Pronotal pilosity homogeneous, hairs short, setiform, making two longitudinal „combs“ in median part and two indistinct conical tufts on lateral tubercles. Constriction covered with white, short, wide scales; also on each side of pronotum a stripe of scales extending from top of lateral tubercle to constriction. Scutellum broadly rounded apically, covered with short whitish-grey hairs. Elytra elongated, sides partly parallel, posteriorly broadly rounded. Humeral protuberances distinct but weakly protruding. Punctures coarse and deep, arranged in regular rows; intervals somewhat narrower than rows. Elytral pubescence uniform, on intervals setiform, short, erect, inclined backwards; in puncture rows similar but recumbent or but slightly semierect and as long as distance to center of the next puncture. Scales on elytra identical to those on pronotum, making two bands: anterior begins under humeral protuberance and extends obliquely to about second row of punctures; posterior runs transversely between lateral margin and third row (where it is broadest). Mesosternum, metasternum and abdomen covered with thin greyish-white hairs. Each tibia with distinct apical thorn curved inwards (Fig. 6). Aedeagus (Figs 3-5) with asymmetrical parameres: left somewhat longer, wider and more conspicuously pubescent than right. Median lobe curved apically.

Female (Fig. 2). Length 2.3-2.9 mm. Body pale-brown to chestnut in colour. Antennomeres short, strongly erectly pilose. Eyes moderately convex. Head covered with recumbent setae, only in anterior part with some erect, forward directed setae. Pronotum lustrous, finely and not prominently papillose; pronotal tubercles very indistinct. Pubescence homogeneous, setiform, short, making pair of longitudinal „combs“ at middle and pair of conical tufts on sides. Pronotal constriction covered with white, short and broad scales; like in males,



Figs 1-6. *Ptinus (Ptinus) mediterraneus* sp. n.: 1- male, outline of body; 2- female, outline of body; 3-5- aedeagus; 3- ventral view, 4- lateral view, 5- median lobe; 6- apex of male tibia

scales make also two longitudinal stripes running from lateral tubercles to constriction. Scutellum ovate, broadly rounded posteriorly, covered with short greyish-white pubescence. Elytra elliptically elongated, with very inconspicuous humeral protuberances. Intervals distinctly narrower than rows of coarse and deep punctures. Elytral pubescence uniform; hairs on intervals short, erect, directed backwards, those in rows similar but recumbent or

semirecumbent, as long as distance between punctures. Scales on elytra make two bands: anterior running obliquely from humeral protuberances towards suture, reaching as such to third row (from there to suture some irregularly dispersed scales occur); posterior extends between lateral margin and third row and is broadest at intervals 4-6 and at 8-9. Mesosternum, metasternum and abdomen, like in male, covered with thin greyish-white hairs. Tibiae with small, straight apical dorns.

Remarks on the geographical distribution of Ptinidae on Sardinia and Corsica. Ptinidae, including many wingless forms, are ideally suited to zoogeographical analyses. Despite the relatively short distance between Sardinia and Corsica, their ptinid faunae belong to two different zoogeographical elements. Corsica is inhabited by species typical of south-western Europe (Spain, southern France, western Italy), as (among others) *Dignomus lusitanus* (Illiger, 1807), *Ptinus spitzyi* A. Villa et G. B. Villa, 1838, or *Ptinus corsicus* Kieswetter, 1877. Ptinidae occurring in Sardinia resemble rather those of northern Africa (northern Tunisia and north-eastern Algeria), with relatively numerous endemic taxa like e.g.: *Dignomus brevicrinatus* (Desbrochers, 1871) or *Ptinus leprieuri* Pic, 1869. The newly described species - *Ptinus mediterraneus* sp. n. - is apparently an endemic, inhabiting northern Sardinia and islands of the La Maddalena Archipelago. The discovery of this species in Corsica, and at that in its northern part (Ponte Leccia), is difficult to interpret - perhaps erroneous labelling is involved, but its occurrence in all islands of the Sardinia-Corsica group cannot be excluded either; only further studies in Corsica and small surrounding islands may clarify the problem.

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REFERENCES

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