

**A new species of the genus *Ernobius* C. G. Thomson, 1859 from Iran  
(Coleoptera: Bostrichoidea: Ptinidae)**

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**Abstract.** *Ernobius iranicus* sp. nov. from Iran is described, illustrated and compared with similar species from the species-group *E. mollis*.

INTRODUCTION

A revision of Palaearctic *Ernobius* C. G. Thomson, 1859 species was published by Johnson (1975). Logvinovskiy (1977) published a review of the genus *Ernobius* from former Soviet Union and Toskina (2002) published some new species from the Palaearctic Region. Some other authors published separated new species from different countries in the Palaearctic Region, especially from Europe and neighbouring countries (Español 1977; Gottwald 1971; Logvinovskiy 1977; Lohse 1970, 1991; Macháček 2007; Novoa & Baselga 2000; Sakai 2002; Toskina 2000, Zahradník 1998, 2000, 2013a, b, 2014).

The species group *mollis*, including the new described species, contains 5 species and 2 subspecies - *Ernobius molli mollis* (Linnaeus, 1758); *E. mollis espanoli* Johnson, 1975; *E. explanatus* (Mannerheim, 1843); *E. explanatus phobos* Gottwald, 1971; *E. gigas* (Mulsant et Rey, 1863); *E. lucidus* (Mulsant et Rey, 1863) and *E. reflexus* (Mulsant et Rey, 1863). All the species are distributed in Europe (only *E. mollis espanoli* occurs in Canary Islands). Furthermore *E. mollis* occurs in North America and Palaearctic Asia (including Japan). This species was also introduced into some other countries in all over the world. No species has yet been known from Iran (Zahradník 2007).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The new species described is provided with a red, printed label showing the following word: "Holotype"; on the second white label, there is the text: species name sp. n., P. Zahradník det.

## RESULTS

### *Ernobius iranicus* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): „Iran, Bachtaraa prov. / 23°23'31" N, 47°26'05" E / Bisolul, 1300-1600 m / P. Kabátek leg.“ Holotype is deposited in the author's collection.

**Description.** Male (holotype). Shortly elongate-elliptical, transversally slightly convex, body length 3.3 mm, the greatest width 1.5 mm. Ratio elytra length : elytra width of 1.7. Light brown. Pubescence white.

Head transversally slightly convex, shining, with two types of punctures - the first ones very fine and dense, almost touching each other, the second ones coarse and also dense, distance between these punctures the same as their diameter. Eyes large, globular, without hairs. Front 3.1 times wider than width of eye in dorsal view. Antennae filiform, consisting of eleven antennomeres. The 1<sup>st</sup> antennomere robust, twice longer than wide, the 2<sup>nd</sup> also robust, 1.5 times longer than wide, but twice shorter than 1<sup>st</sup>. Antennomeres 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> thinner, the 3<sup>rd</sup> twice longer than previous one, the 4<sup>th</sup> shorter, having length only 1.7 of previous antennomere length; the 5<sup>th</sup> 1.2 times longer than the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Antennomer 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> slightly thicker; 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> as long as the 4<sup>th</sup>, the 7<sup>th</sup> as long as the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The last three enlarged, 1.6 longer than 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. Antennomere 9<sup>th</sup> slightly longer than 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> together, the 10<sup>th</sup> 1.3 longer than the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> 1.5 longer than 9<sup>th</sup> (Fig. 1). The last segment of maxillary palpi rectangular, on apex outside sharpened.

Pronotum transverse, ratio length: width 0.7, widest in the last third, (Fig. 2). Sides of pronotum narrowly flattened. Posterior angle rounded. Surface of pronotum shining, densely and coarsely umbilicate-punctate, puncture almost in contact. Pubescence long, fine, recumbent, inclined backward. Scutellum small, triangular, as long as wide.

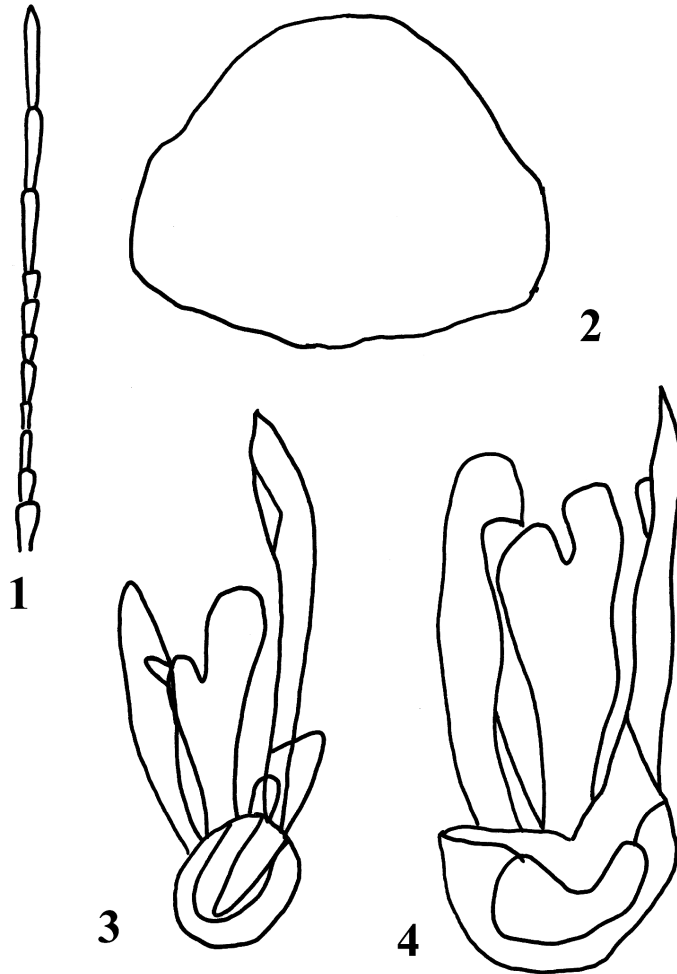
Elytra shortly oval, without distinct shoulders, shining, densely and coarsely punctate; punctures almost in contact. Pubescence fine and dense, short, recumbent, on sides slightly semierect, inclined backwards.

Legs thin and long, with sparse long semierect pubescence. Tibiae of posterior legs as long as tarsi. The 1<sup>st</sup> tarsomere slightly shorter than 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> together, of the same width. The 2<sup>nd</sup> tarsomere twice longer than the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The 4<sup>th</sup> slightly heart-shapedly emarginate, not or barely surpassing the middle, the 5<sup>th</sup> tarsomere is inserted in this emargination is slim, as long as the 3<sup>rd</sup> and twice longer than 4<sup>th</sup>. Claws relatively large, without teeth.

Disc of metasternum transversally convex, posteriorly with small rounded shallow depression. Surface shining, densely and coarsely, umbilicate punctate, puncture diameter as long as distance between punctures. Pubescence sparse, fine, short, recumbent, inclined backwards. Ventrites shining, densely and coarsely, umbilicate-punctate, puncture diameter as long as distance between punctures. Pubescence sparse, fine, short, recumbent, inclined backwards.

Aedeagus see Fig. 3

**Female.** Unknown.



Figs. 1-3. *Ernobius iranicus* sp. nov.: 1- antennae; 2- pronotum; 3- aedeagus; Fig. 4. *Ernobius reflexus* (Mulsant et Rey, 1863): 4- aedeagus.

**Differential diagnosis.** From other species group *mollis*, the new species differs especially by a different shape of the aedeagus. He aedeagus is very similar to *E. reflexus* (Mulsant et Rey, 1863), but the right paramere is very long, longer than in *E. reflexus*, median lobe - right part strongly longer than left, and wider than left one; *E. reflexus* have right part of the median lobe narrower than left and only shortly longer (Fig. 4).

**Name derivation.** Derived from the name of country where the species was collected.

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