

Eucinetidae – a new family to the fauna of Bulgaria (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea)

Borislav GUÉORGUIEV

GUÉORGUIEV B. 2004. Eucinetidae – a new family to the fauna of Bulgaria (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea). – *Historia naturalis bulgarica*, **16**: 113-117.

Abstract. The presence of the family Eucinetidae Lacordaire, 1857, the genera *Eucinetus* Germar, 1818 and *Nycteus* Latreille, 1829, and the species *Eucinetus haemorrhoidalis* (Germar, 1818) and *Nycteus hopffgarteni* (Reitter, 1885) is recorded for the first time in the Bulgarian fauna.

Key-words: Coleoptera, Eucinetidae, *Eucinetus haemorrhoidalis*, *Nycteus hopffgarteni*, first records, Bulgaria

Introduction

The superfamily Scirtoidea (former Fossipedes) includes four families: Clambidae (incl. Calyptomeridae), Decliniidae, Eucinetidae, and Scirtidae (= Cyphonidae; Helodidae; Elodidae) (LAWRENCE & NEWTON, 1995). Except for Decliniidae, the other families are represented in the fauna of Europe, but so far only Clambidae and Scirtidae were noted to inhabit Bulgaria.

The aim of the present report is to formalize the finding of a new family of the order Coleoptera to the fauna of the country (Fig. 1).

Material

As a result of the examination of beetles collected for a research project financed by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science, the presence of the family Eucinetidae hitherto not found in Bulgaria was ascertained. The find is kept in the collection of the National Museum of Natural History, Sofia. A single specimen, collected by Mr. S. Vit during his recent visit to Bulgaria, is added to the aforementioned material.

Results

The family Eucinetidae Lacordaire, 1857 comprises 8 genera and more than 40 valid species (VIT, 1999; 2000). A character, which easily discriminates the adults of

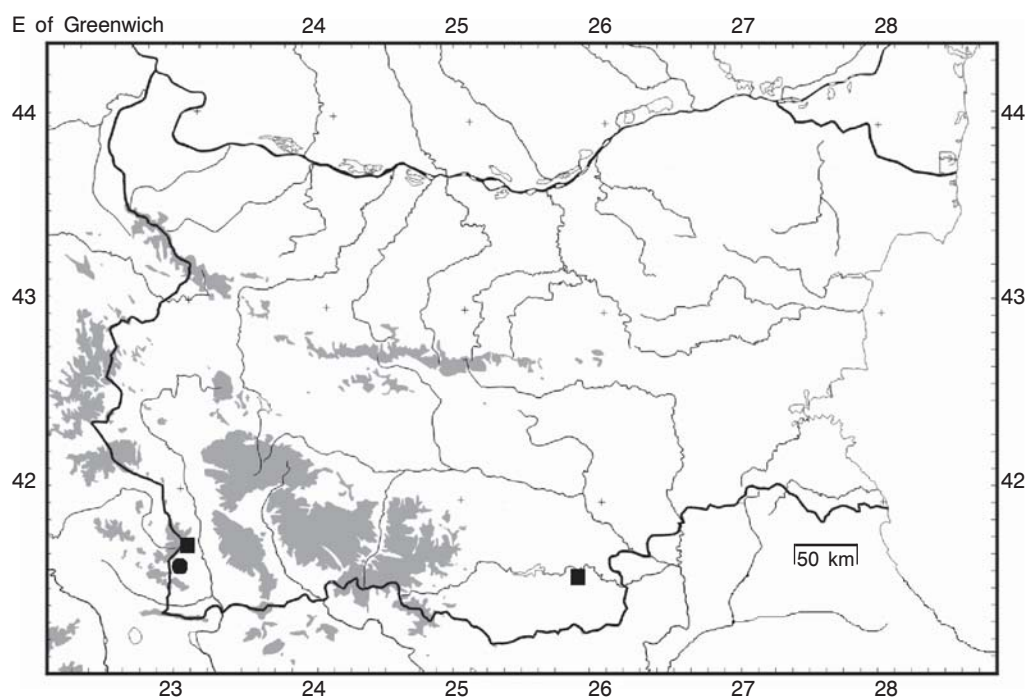


Fig. 1. Localities of *Eucinetus haemorrhoidalis* (Germar) (circle) and *Nycteus hopffgarteni* (Reitter) (squares) in Bulgaria

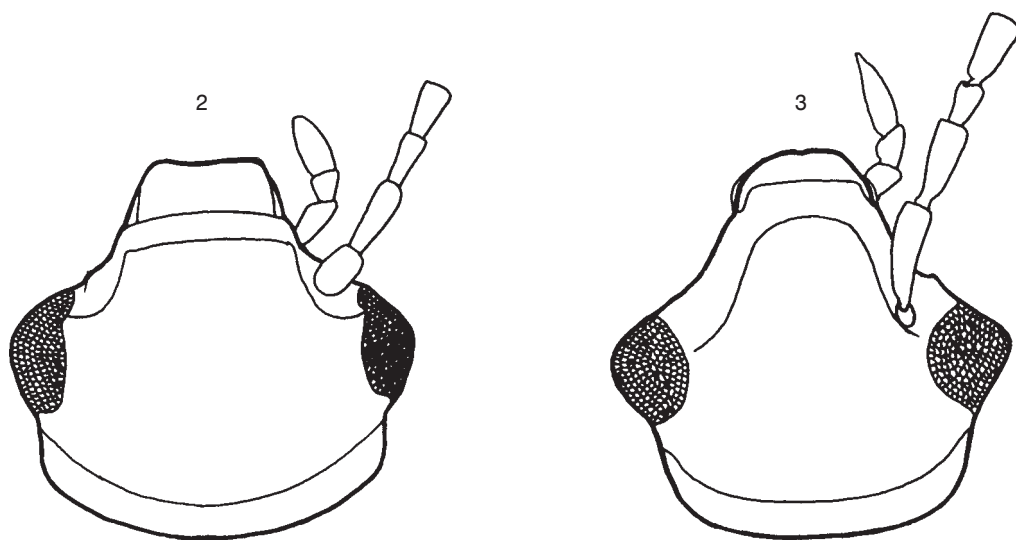
Eucinetidae from the other *Scirtoidea*, is the tarsal formula 5-5-5 (KRYZHANOVSKIJ, 1989). Because of the peculiar shape of the metacoxae, these beetles are usually called “plate-thigh beetles”. The development of the two stages, the adults and the larvae, is strongly connected with the mould fungi, as the adults could be found also under barks or in woods of decayed trees (NIKITSKY, 1989; VIT, 2000). Judging from the scant material kept in several European collections (VIT, 1985), the beetles appear to be rare in their habitats.

Eucinetus Germar, 1818

Eucinetus haemorrhoidalis (Germar, 1818)

Locality: Maleshevska Planina Mt., 660 m, 3 km E Nikudin, 04.05.-04.07.2003, 1 ex. in soil trap in Submediterranean deciduous forest (*Quercus* spp., *Fagus sylvatica*, *Juglans regia*, ect.), S. Lazarov & T. Ljubomirov leg, B. Guéorguiev det. Distribution: Holarctic.

Notes: In the Balkan Peninsula *Eucinetus haemorrhoidalis* has hitherto been cited only from North Serbia and Romanian part of Dobrogea (HORION, 1955). It is widely distributed in Europe, being also found in Turkey (VIT, 1985).



Figs 2-3. Head of *Encinetus haemorrhoidalis* (Germar) (Fig. 2) and *Nycteus* sp. (Fig. 3), re-drawn from VIT (1985), with modifications

Nycteus Latreille, 1829

Nycteus hopffgarteni (Reitter, 1885)

Localities: Eastern Rhodopes Mts., vicinities of Madzharovo, 22.04.2000, one male digging in the base of *Populus* sp., S. Vit leg. & det. Maleshevskia Planina Mt., 750-770 m, 4 km W Gorna Breznitsa, 01.05.-20.06.2003, 1 ex., soil traps in Submediterranean dense forest of *Platanus orientalis*, B. Guéorguiev leg. & det. Distribution: Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria (nominotypical subspecies), Italy (ssp. *prospector* Vit).

Notes: At present the genus *Nycteus* includes 12 species, limited to the warm temperate and subtropical belts of the Holarctic region (VIT, 1999). Two species, *hopffgarteni* (type locality “Banat: Franzdorf”) and *oertzeni* Reitter, 1887 (type locality “Morea, Olympia”) are known from the Balkan Peninsula (KLAUSNITZER, 1975: 35; VIT, 1985: 449, 455). According to VIT (op. cit.) the first species forms two distinct subspecies. The nominotypical one has a Southeastern European range, and on the Balkans, it has been hitherto cited only from Bosnia and Herzegovina. The subspecies *prospector* Vit, 1985, described from the Sila Mountain in Calabria, is distributed in both the northern and the southern parts of Italy (ANGELINI & POGGI, 1995). *N. oertzeni* is known from Peloponnesos (Greece) only. Both Balkan species are most probably vicariant in relation to each other.

The two genera could be distinguished easily by three main characters. The first two are the shape of clypeus and the size and shape of antennomere I (Figs. 2-3). The third distinguishing mark is the number of metatibial spurs - one in *Encinetus* and two in *Nycteus*. There are also two more or less variable characters: the color of pronotum and elytra, which in *E.*

haemorrhoidalis are bi-colored. Conversely, *N. hopffgarteni* usually has a uniform rusty-yellowish pronotum and elytra (with a somewhat darkened disc).

Acknowledgements

I am obliged to Mr. S. Vit (Geneva, Switzerland), for his comments on the manuscript, as well as for the faunal data and literature provided. For the field collecting I thank Dr. S. Lazarov and Dr. T. Ljubomirov (Institute of Zoology, Sofia). The Bulgarian Ministry of Education and Science supported financially the fieldwork.

References

- ANGELINI F., POGGI R. 1995. Coleoptera Polyphaga IV (Eucinetoidae, Dascilloidea). – In: Minelli A., Ruffo S., La Posta S. (eds). Checklist delle specie della fauna italiana, 49. Calderini, Bologna.
- HORION A. 1955. Sternoxia (Buprestidae), Fossipedes, Macroductyla, Brachymera. – In: Faunistik der Mitteleuropäischen Käfer, 4. Ent. Arb. Mus. G. Frey, Tutzing bei München, 1-280.
- KLAUSNITZE B. 1975. Bemerkungen zu den Typen Reitters aus der Gattung *Eucinetus* Germar, 1818 (Coleoptera Eucinetidae). – Ent. Nachr., Dresden, **19** (3): 33-37.
- KRYZHANOVSKIY O. L. 1989. Key of suborders and families. – In: Ler P.A. (ed.). Opredelitel nasekomykh Dalnego Vostoka SSSR, **3** (1): 44-66. (In Russian).
- LAWRENCE J. F., HASTINGS A. M., DALLWITZ M. J., PAINE T. A., ZURCHER E. J. 1995. Elateriformia (Coleoptera): Descriptions, Illustrations, Identification, and Information Retrieval for Families and Sub-families. Version: 22nd December 2000. <http://biodiversity.uno.edu/delta/>.
- LAWRENCE J. F., NEWTON A. F. JR. 1995. Families and subfamilies of Coleoptera (with selected genera, notes, references and data on family-group names). – In: Pakaluk J., Ślipiński S.A. (eds). Biology, Phylogeny, and Classification of Coleoptera: Papers Celebrating the 80th Birthday of Roy A. Crowson. Muzeum i Instytut Zoologii PAN, Warszawa: 779-1006 + 48 pp. of index in reprints.
- NIKITSKY N. B. 1989. 31. Eucinetidae. – In: Ler P.A. (ed.). Opredelitel nasekomykh Dalnego Vostoka SSSR, **3** (1): 436-438. (In Russian).
- VIT S. 1985. Etude de la morphologie des espèces paléarctiques de genre *Eucinetus* Germar et quelques remarques sur son utilisation taxonomique (Coleoptera Eucinetidae). – Revue suisse Zool., **92** (2): 421-460.
- VIT S. 1999. Sur les genres *Nycteus* Latreille, 1829, et *Eucinetus* Germar, 1818 (Coleoptera, Eucinetidae). – Mitt. Schweiz. Entomol. Ges., **72** (3-4): 387-394.
- VIT S. 2000. Contribution à connaissance de la famille Eucinetidae (Coleoptera). – Revue suisse Zool., **107** (1): 123-138.

Received on 04.12.2003

Author's address:

Dr. Borislav Guéorguiev

National Museum of Natural History

Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd. 1

1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

E-mail: bobivg@yahoo.com

Eucinetidae – едно ново семейство за фауната на България (Coleoptera: Scirtoidea)

Борислав ГЕОРГИЕВ

(Резюме)

Семейство Eucinetidae, роговете *Eucinetus* и *Nycteus*, както и видовете *E. haemorrhoidalis* (Germar) and *N. hopffgarteni* (Reitter) са съобщени за първи път от България. Представени са морфологични белези, позволяващи ефикасното различаване на таксоните. Изследването е резултат от работа по проект “Б-МУ-1101/01” финансиран от Министерството на образованието и науката (МОН).