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The second species of *Dictyon* FAUVEL from the Western Palaearctic region, with additional records of *D. pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM) (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)

V. ASSING

A b s t r a c t : *Dictyon hlavaci* nov.sp. from Morocco, the third species of the genus and the second representative in the Western Palaearctic region, is described, illustrated, and compared with the similar *D. pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM). Additional records of *D. pumilio* are reported from Greece and Azerbaijan. The distribution of the genus in the Western Palaearctic region is mapped.

K e y w o r d s : Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Dictyon,* Palaearctic region, Morocco, Greece, Azerbaijan, new species, new records.

Introduction

The genus *Dictyon* FAUVEL 1900 of the small tribe Mesoporini currently includes only two species, *D. pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM 1884) from the Western Palaearctic region and *D. insulicola* KISHIMOTO 1999 from Japan (ASSING 2005). Records of this genus are extremely scarce. Only two records of *D. pumilio* were known from Azerbaijan and Iran (BOHÁČ 1980, EPPELSHEIM 1884, LUZE 1902) until recently, when the species was reported from three localities in southern Greece (ASSING 2005). *Dictyon insulicola* is known only from four islands of the Ogasawara archipelago (KISHIMOTO 1999a, 1999b).

In material of Staphylinidae collected by Peter Hlaváč in Morocco in spring 2009 and made available to me for study, a male of *Dictyon* was discovered, the first record of the genus from the Western Mediterranean region. A comparison with *D. pumilio* revealed that it represents an undescribed species.

Material, methods, and measurements

The material referred to below is deposited in the following public institution and private collection:

SMNS..... Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart (W. Schawaller, K. Wolf-Schwenninger)

cAss..... author´s private collection

The morphological studies were carried out using a Stemi SV 11 microscope (Zeiss Germany) and a Jenalab compound microscope (Carl Zeiss Jena). A digital camera (Nikon Coolpix 995) was used for the photographs.

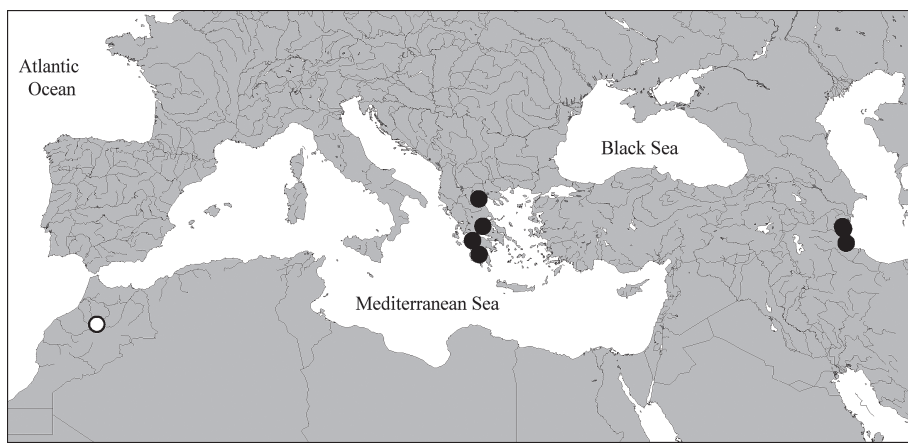
The map was generated using the online generic mapping tool (GMT) of the Geomar website at www.aquarius.ifm-geomar.de/omc.

***Dictyon pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM 1884)** (Map 1)

Additional material examined: Greece: 2♀♀, Pieria Oros, W Ritini, 600 m, decaying beech trunk, 18.IV.2006, leg. Vít (cAss). Azerbaijan: 3♀♀, Lenkoran, Apo below Bilasar, 350 m, 8.-9.VI.1996, leg. Schawaller (SMNS, cAss).

Comment: The species is now known from four localities in Greece, two in Azerbaijan, and one in northwestern Iran. Unfortunately, no males have become available from the Caspian Sea region, so that the possibility that the material from Greece may turn out to represent a distinct species cannot be ruled out completely.

The two females from Greece were collected from a dead beech trunk inhabited by the ant *Lasius fuliginosus* (LATREILLE 1798).



Map 1: Distributions of *Dictyon pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM) (filled circles) and *D. hlavaci* nov.sp. (open circles) in the Western Palaearctic region.

***Dictyon hlavaci* nov.sp.** (Figs 1-3, Map 1)

Type material: Holotype ♂: "Morocco, Khénifra, Aguelmane Azigza, under rocks around lake, 10.V.2009, leg. P. Hlaváč / Holotypus ♂ *Dictyon hlavaci* sp.n. det. V. Assing 2009" (cAss).

Description: Body length 1.5 mm. Coloration: forebody pale brown; abdomen slightly darker brown, with the posterior margins of the segments and the apex (segments VIII-X) reddish-yellow; legs and antennae yellowish.

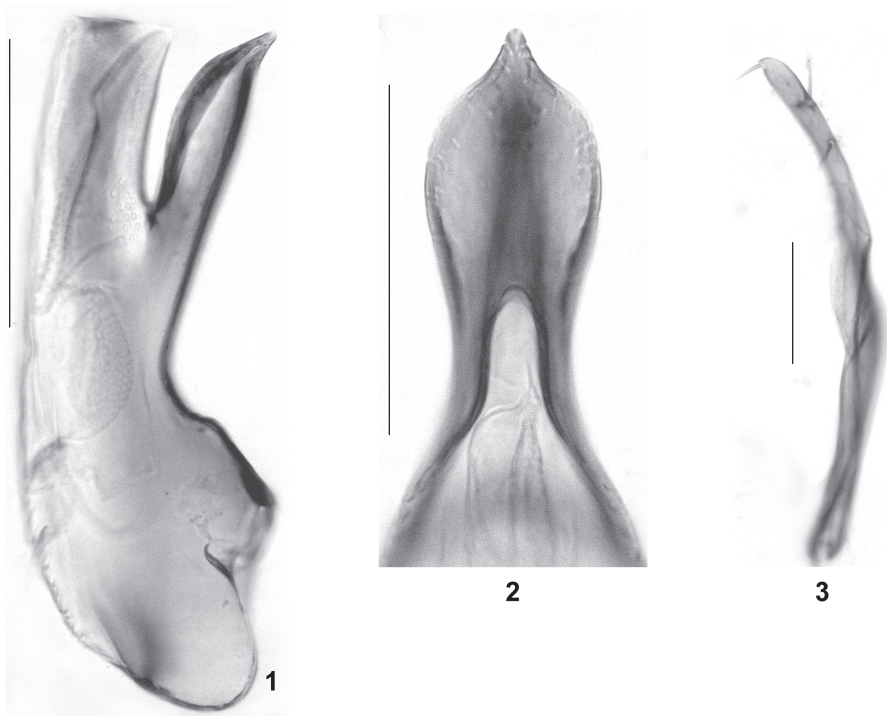
Head distinctly transverse; punctation very fine and rather dense. Eyes conspicuously small, slightly larger than antennomere I in cross-section and approximately 1/3 the length of postocular region in dorsal view. Antenna with antennomeres I and II relatively large and of subequal width, II slightly longer than I; III weakly oblong and much

narrower than I and II; IV-V approximately as wide as long and as wide as III; VI-X of increasing width, increasingly transverse and increasingly flattened; X more than twice as wide as long.

Pronotum approximately 1.8 times as wide as long and 1.8 times as wide as head, widest at posterior margin; punctation fine and dense.

Elytra at suture approximately 0.85 times as long as pronotum. Hind wings apparently reduced to short rudiments. Metatarsomere I slightly longer than the combined length of II-IV.

Abdomen wedge-shaped, widest at base and strongly tapering posteriad; punctation fine and dense; posterior margin of tergite VII with fine palisade fringe.



Figs 1-3: *Dictyon hlavaci* nov.sp. (holotype): (**1**) median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view; (**2**) apical portion of median lobe in ventral view; (**3**) paramere. Scale bars: 0.1 mm.

♂: posterior margin of tergite VIII concave in the middle; posterior margin of sternite VIII almost truncate; median lobe of aedeagus shaped as in Figs 1-2, little more than half as long as parameres, 0.24 mm from apex of ventral process to base of median lobe (parameres: 0.42 mm); paramere as in Fig. 3.

♀: unknown.

E t y m o l o g y : This remarkable species is dedicated to my colleague and friend Peter Hlaváč, Košice, who collected the holotype.

C o m p a r a t i v e n o t e s : The new species is distinguished from the externally highly similar *D. pumilio* by the much smaller eyes (*D. pumilio*: much larger than antennomere I in cross-section, distinctly more than half as long as postocular region in dorsal view), the apparently reduced length of the hind wings (fully developed in *D. pumilio*), and by the shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus (*D. pumilio*: strongly curved in lateral view). For illustrations of the male primary sexual characters and the habitus of *D. pumilio* see ASSING (2005).

D i s t r i b u t i o n a n d b i o n o m i c s : The type locality is situated in the Moyen Atlas, to the east of Khenifra, Morocco. The holotype was found under a stone near a lake; additonal data are not available.

Zusammenfassung

Dictyon hlavaci nov.sp., die dritte Art der Gattung und die zweite Art aus der Westpaläarktis, wird aus Marokko beschrieben, abgebildet und mit *D. pumilio* (EPPELSHEIM) verglichen. Weitere Nachweise von *D. pumilio* werden aus Griechenland und Aserbaidschan gemeldet. Die Verbreitung der Gattung in der Westpaläarktis wird anhand einer Karte illustriert.

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