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**On the genus *Sunius* Stephens, 1829 of Turkey.**

**V. A new micropterous species from central southern Anatolia, with additional records from the western Mediterranean region (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Paederinae)**

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**Abstract:** A new species of the genus *Sunius* Stephens, 1829 is described from the Karaman province of central southern Anatolia: *Sunius tauricus* sp. n. Additional records of seven species and two subspecies of *Sunius* from the western Mediterranean region are reported. A total of 38 species are now known from Turkey, 34 of them are endemic.

**Keywords:** Coleoptera - Staphylinidae - Paederinae - *Sunius* - Turkey - western Mediterranean - new species.

**INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Sunius* Stephens, 1829 comprises 136 species in the Palaearctic region, with its main diversity centre in the Mediterranean countries, especially in Anatolia (Assing, 2008a; Anlaş, 2016a, b; Schülke & Smetana, 2015). A total of 37 species are known from Turkey, 33 of which are endemic to that country (Anlaş, 2016b).

In this paper I describe a new species of *Sunius* from central southern Anatolia, rising the diversity of the genus in Turkey to 38 species. Additional records of seven species and two subspecies of *Sunius* from the western Mediterranean region are also reported.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Terminology of the primary and secondary sexual characters of the species described herein follows Coiffait (1984) and Assing (2008a). The morphological studies were conducted using a Stemi 2000-C microscope (Zeiss Germany). For the photographs a digital camera (Zeiss Axiocam ERC5s) was used.

Head length was measured from the anterior margin of the frons to the posterior margin of the head, length of pronotum was measured along the median line, elytral length was measured at the suture from the apex of the scutellum to the posterior margin of the elytra. The length of the median lobe of the aedeagus was measured from the apex of the ventral process to the base of the capsule.

The material referred to in this study is preserved in the following collections:

AZMM – Alaşehir Zoological Museum, Manisa, Turkey (S. Anlaş).

HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (G. Makranczy, O. Merkl)

MHNG – Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland (G. Cuccodoro).

**RESULTS**

**Faunistic Records**

***Sunius microphthalmus* (Franz, 1979)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1♂, 1♀; 08.III.1983; Canary Islands, Hierro, El Golfo, 800-1000 m; leg. Besuchet. – MHNG; 1♂; 07.III.1983; Canaries, Hierro, Amoco, 900 m; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This species is endemic to the El Hierro Island of the Canary Archipelago (Assing, 2008a).

***Sunius brevipennis brevipennis* (Wollaston, 1864)**

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1♂, 2♀; 12.III.1983; Canary Islands, Tenerife, Ruigomez, 900 m; leg. Besuchet. – MHNG; 1♂; 14.III.1983; Tenerife, Puerto de la Cruz; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This subspecies is endemic to Tenerife in the Canary Islands (Assing, 2008a).

*Sunius brevipennis canariensis* (Bernhauer, 1928)

**Material examined:** MHNG; 3♂, 2♀; 04.III.1983; Canary Islands, Hierro, La Playes; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This subspecies occurs only in the Canaries, where it has been found on the islands of Gran Canaria, La Palma, El Hierro and Lanzarote (Assing, 2008a).

*Sunius fernandezii* Hernández & Garcia, 1982

**Material examined:** MHNG; 2♂, 1♀; 13.III.1983; Canary Islands, Tenerife, Roque de Caramujo, 2200 m; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This species occurs only in the Canaries, where it is restricted to the island of Tenerife (Assing, 2008a).

*Sunius ovaliceps* (Fauvel, 1878)

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1♂, 2♀; 10.IX.1969; Portugal, Faro, Aljezur, leg. Senglet. – MHNG; 1♂; XII.1975; Spain, Albacete, Calar del Albumdo, 1400 m; leg. Dehanreng. – MHNG; 1♂, 2♀; 20.V.1960; Spain, Teruel, Noguera, 1550 m; leg. Besuchet. – MHNG; 1♀; 19.V.1960; Spain, Cuenca, Las Torcas; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This species is known from France, Spain, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and also the Afro-tropical region (Assing, 2008a; Schülke & Smetana, 2015).

*Sunius propinquus* (Brisout de Barneville, 1867)

**Material examined:** HNHM; 1♂, 1♀; Italy, Sardinia, Aritzo; leg. Dodero, coll. Fodor. – MHNG; 1♂; 27.VIII.1969; Portugal, Port., Bragança, Moncorvo; leg. Senglet. – MHNG; 1♀; 05.IV.1962; Tunisia, Tunis, Belvidéu; leg. Besuchet.

**Distribution:** This species is known from Europe in Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden, and from North Africa in Algeria, Morocco, Madeira Archipelago, and Tunisia (Assing, 2008a; Schülke & Smetana, 2015).

*Sunius tronqueti* Assing, 2008

**Material examined:** MHNG; 1♂; 14.V.1960; Spain, Granada, Puerto de la Ragua, 1800 m; leg. Comellini.

**Distribution:** The recently described species was only known to occur in the Sierra Nevada in Spain (Assing, 2008b).

*Sunius algericus* (Coiffait, 1973)

**Material examined:** HNHM; 2♂; Italy, Sardinia, Lula; leg. A. Dodero, coll. Fodor.

**Distribution:** This species was known from southern Italy (Calabria and Sicily) in Europe, and from Algeria and Tunisia in North Africa (Assing, 2008a; Schülke & Smetana, 2015). Thus, this species is here reported from Sardinia for the first time.

*Sunius sardus* Assing, 2008

**Material examined:** HNHM; 1♂, 2♀; 22.IV.1902, Italy, Sardinia, Campeda; leg. A. Dodero, coll. Fodor.

**Distribution:** This species occurs only on the Italian island of Sardinia (Assing, 2008a).

## TAXONOMY

*Sunius tauricus* sp. n.

Figs 1-8

**Holotype:** AZMM; ♂; 28.V.2016; Turkey, Karaman province, Toros Mts., Ayrancı-Erdemli road, Yüglük Hill, 2180 m, 37°02'49"N 34°00'26"E; leg. Anlaş, Örgel & Yaman.

**Paratypes:** AZMM, MHNG; 14♂♂, 10♀♀, same data as holotype.

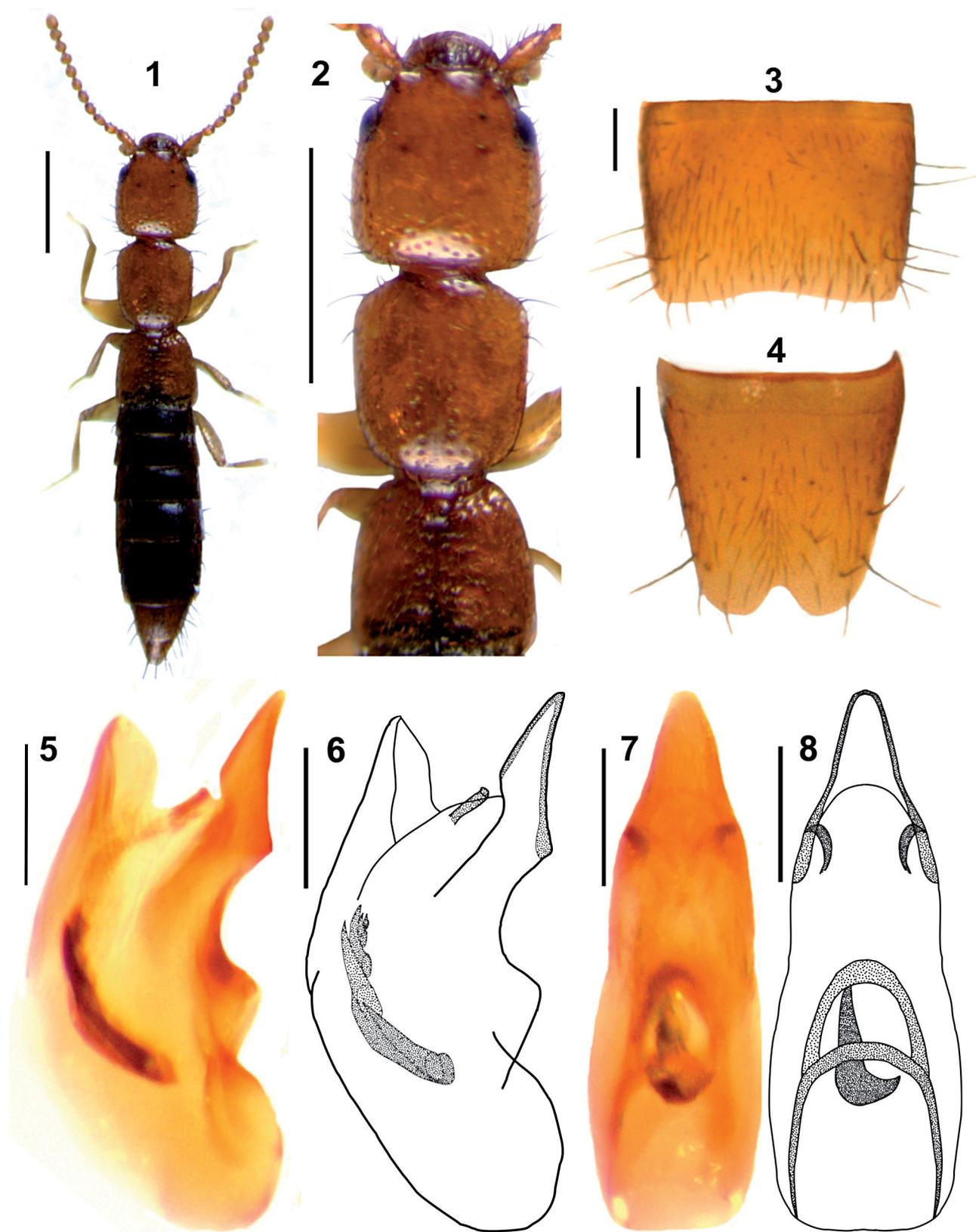
**Type locality:** Turkey, Karaman Province, Toros Mountain, Yüglük Hill, 2180 m.

**Description:** Small species, body length 2.4-2.7 mm. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Colouration: Forebody uniformly reddish; abdomen dark brown; legs pale yellow; antennae reddish.

Head oblong (Figs 1-2), approximately 1.10-1.15 times as long as wide; lateral margins in dorsal view straight and slightly diverging posteriad; punctation coarse, well-defined, and relatively sparse, in lateral area slightly denser than in medio-dorsal area; microsculpture absent, eyes small (Fig. 2), weakly projecting from lateral outline of head, postocular region in dorsal view approximately three times as long as eyes. Antennae moderately slender, approximately 0.80-0.85 mm long.

Pronotum (Fig. 1-2) approximately 0.90-0.95 times as wide as head, and about 1.05-1.10 times as long as wide; lateral margins subparallel and distinctly diverging posteriad in dorsal view; microsculpture absent; punctation as coarse as that of head, medial line impunctate.

Elytra (Figs 1-2) approximately as wide as pronotum and at suture about 0.75 times as long as pronotum; punctation finer and denser than that of pronotum and head, and weakly granulose; microsculpture indistinct. Hind wings strongly reduced.



Figs 1-8. Details of *Sunius tauricus* sp. n. (1) Habitus. (2) Forebody. (3) Male abdominal sternite VII. (4) Male abdominal sternite VIII. (5-6) Aedeagus, lateral view. (7-8) Aedeagus, ventral view. Scale bars: 0.5 mm (1-2); 0.1 mm (3-8).

Abdomen wider than elytra (Fig. 1), approximately 1.05 times as wide as elytra, widest at segments VI-VII; punctation dense and fine; microsculpture shallow; posterior margin of tergite VII without palisade fringe.

**Male:** Abdominal sternite VII not distinctly modified but posterior margin weakly concave in middle (Fig. 3); posterior margin of sternite VIII with relatively wide emargination, posteriorly with median cluster of very weak pubescence, tubercle absent (Fig. 4); aedeagus approximately 0.35-0.38 mm long, shaped as in Figs 5-8, with apical portion of ventral process slightly dentate in lateral view, base of ventral process in lateral view broadly concave, not deep, and slightly curved, internal sac with a series of six mixed large and small spines.

**Distribution and bionomics:** The new species was collected only once in the Yüglük Hill, Taurus Mountains, Karaman province, central southern Anatolia, where it was found under stones at an elevation of 2180 m.

**Etymology:** The name is derived from the Toros Mountains, the mountain range where the type locality is situated.

**Comparative notes:** The species is distinguished from all its congeners by the different shape of the ventral process of the aedeagus, and by the shape of the spines of the internal sac. The similarity in the male sexual characters suggests that *S. tauricus* sp. n. is most closely related to *S. tuberiventris* Assing, *S. wunderlei* Assing and *S. balkarensis* Assing (see Assing, 2001). The new species is separated from these species by the lack of tubercle on abdominal sternite VIII (in *S. tuberiventris*: sternite VIII in posterior median area with subcircular tubercle covered with dense pubescence; in *S. wunderlei*: sternite VIII with longer pubescence on posterior median tubercle; in *S. balkarensis*: sternite VIII with slightly smaller tubercle), by the broader and stouter ventral process of the aedeagus in lateral view; by the more shallowly dentate apical portion of the ventral process in lateral view; by the different shape and the series of six spines in the internal sac (in *S. tuberiventris*: internal sac with row of four relatively small spines; in *S. wunderlei*: internal sac with four larger spines; in *S. balkarensis*: internal sac with four larger spines).

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