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LATHROBIUM VOLSCUM N. SP. FROM LUPONE MOUNTAIN IN LATIUM, ITALY (COLEOPTERA STAPHYLINIDAE)

219th contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae

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Bordoni A. – Lathrobium volscum n. sp. from Lupone Mountain in Latium, Italy (Coleoptera Staphylinidae) – 219th contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae.

Lathrobium volscum n. sp. from Lupone Mountain in Latium, Italy is described and figured. It is very closely related to L. franzinii Bordoni from Semprevisa Mountain.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Paederinae, Lathrobium, new species, Latium.

INTRODUCTION

The Lepinis Mountains, along with Pontine Plain, Ausoni and Aurunci Mountains and Valle del Sacco, are part of a series of structures aligned parallel to the Tyrrhenian coast SE of Rome, Italy.

They are bounded North to the Colli Albani, South by the River Amaseno, West by the Pontine Plain and East by the Valle Latina. They are divided into two parallel ridges, separated from the valley located between Montelanico and Carpinetto Romano. The western chain has a straight line with the main peaks of the mountains Pratiglio, Lupone Perentile, Caprea, Semprevisa, Erdigheta and “della Difesa”. The eastern chain looks like a plateau. The Lepinis consist predominantly of dolomitic limestone and dolomite carbonate platform whose age is in the range Paleocene-Middle Jurassic. On the western side of the mountains Lupone-Semprevisa are visible the oldest rocks dating from the Middle Jurassic.

The whole area is characterized by karst accentuated by the presence of numerous pits and caves. The high proportion of mountains majestic maples and beech trees thrive.

In the typical series of L. franzinii Bordoni, 1985 of Mount Semprevisa I included a female of the same locality but also a male of Rosa collection (now in the Museo Civico di Storia naturale di Milano) and one female (preserved in my collection), from Mount Lupone. These last two specimens belong instead to a new species described here and should be considered paratypes thereof.

Lathrobium volscum n. sp.

MATERIAL EXAMINED – Holotype ♂; Italy, Latium, Lupone Mountain, 850 m, A. Degiovanni leg. 14.xii.2009 (in. Author coll.); paratypes: 1 ♀ and 1 ♂, same data, 1000 m, G. Franzini leg. 20.iv.1978 (in Author coll. and Museo civico Storia naturale, Milano, olim paratypes of L. franzinii Bordoni 1985); 1 ♂, same data, Cori (Latina), 700 m, A. Petrioli leg. 29.ix.2004 (in coll. Magrini, Florence).

DESCRIPTION – Body length, 9.5 mm; length from anterior margin of head to posterior margin of elytra, 4.5 mm. Reddish-brown. Eyes reduced to a very few ommatidia. Very similar to Lathrobium franzini Bordoni, 1985 from Mount Semprevisa, but differing by the following characters: more slender and narrow body, head proportionately less elongated and less narrow anteriorly, with less rounded sides; pronotum narrower, especially posteriad; elytra narrower. Antennae with 2nd article proportionally shorter; articles from 4th to 10th, much smaller and particularly shorter. Surface of the head with a little more sparse punctuation; frons clearly closer.

Pronotum with anterior angles obsolete rather than broadly rounded; surface with a little more sparse and finer punctuation; elytra with finer and sparse punctuation.

Fourth male sternite visible just imprinted in the middle, fifth sternite with a visible median impression V-shaped.

Sixth male visible sternite with two sets of dark setae visibly arched (fig. I, 4), instead of having three sub rectilinear series (cfr. fig. 23 in BORDONI, 1985).

Aedeagus (fig. I, 5) similar in structure to that of franzini (fig. I, 1), but clearly smaller (1.85 - 2.8 mm long), ventral lamina in lateral view (fig. I, 5), more robust and short, with proximal longer portion, with more hooked apex. In ventral view (fig. I, 7) it is smaller and of different shapes, with narrower apex and more deeply divided into two closer parts.

Dorsal lamina in lateral view (fig. I, 5), with different structure, with apex provided of a more pronounced tooth; in dorsal view (fig. I, 6) it has many different forms, with wider distal portion and longer proximal portion and differently structured, with apex subacute. Internal sac with two long surfaces similarly composed, the left, keeping the aedeagus in lateral view, covered with scales arranged roughly in parallel series overlapped and the
A careful examination reveals significant differences between the two species: body and aedeagus size, the different order of series of setae on the 6th male visible sternite and the different conformation of the dorsal and ventral lamina of the aedeagus, as indicated above.

Mt. Lupone in West and Mt. Semprevisa in East chain of Lepinis mountains have similar environmental and geological features, however, are populated by a different faunula also in other groups of Coleoptera and Staphylinidae in particular. For example on Mt. Lupone there is one species (in press) of Scotonomus other than that of Mt. Semprevisa (Scotonomus lepinensis Pace, 1977). Already in the past time (BORDONI, 1985) I suggested that every mountain in the Lazio could accommodate a different species of Lathrobium. Now I am of the opinion that perhaps every major limestone mountain of various groups of southern Lazio could be inhabited by different species, although related by characters of obvious affinity.

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REFERENCES
