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Maladera (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Sericini) from Iran

Maladera (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Sericini) z Íránu

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Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Scarabaeoidea, Sericini, new species, Iran

Abstract. *Maladera* (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. from the south Iranian province of Lorestan is described and compared with the endemic species *M.* (*E.) hodkovae* Nikodým et Král, 1998, from which it differs primarily in having the left paramere less arched and narrower, and the right paramere with apex ventrally blunt and truncate.

INTRODUCTION

The subgenus *Eusericula* Reitter, 1902 of the genus *Maladera* Mulsant et Rey, 1871 comprises five species occurring in Israel, Syria, Sinai and Iran (Ahrens 2006). Four species are known from various parts of Iran: *M. ahrensi* Keith, 2005, *M. farsensis* Petrovitz, 1980, *M. girardi* Keith et Ahrens, 2002 and *M. hodkovae* Nikodým et Král, 1998. Material collected recently in the south Iranian province of Lorestan included 15 specimens (four males, 11 females) belonging to an as yet undescribed species of this subgenus. Geographically nearest is *M.* (*E.*) *hodkovae* known from the provinces of Boyerahmad-va-Kuhgiluyeh (Nikodým & Král 1998), Lorestan (Keith & Ahrens 2002) and most recently found also in the Fars province.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

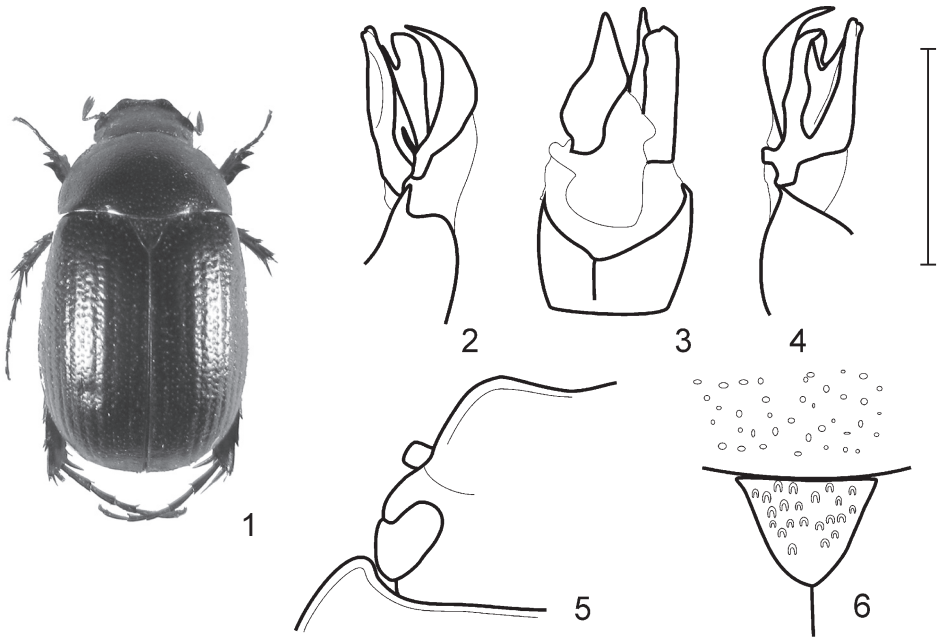
Acronyms used in the text (after Arnett et al. 1993) identify the collections housing the material studied:
RSCV – Richard Sehnal, Velenice, Czech Republic;
BMNH – United Kingdom, London, Natural History Museum (Malcolm Kerley, Maxwell Barclay);
NMPC – National Museum Prague, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek).

Specimens of the new species are provided with the red label: "*Maladera* (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. nov., HOLOTYPUS [ALLOTYPUS or PARATYPUS], specimen No., R. Sehnal det. 2008". Exact label data are cited for the type series. Author's remarks are included in brackets.

TAXONOMY

Maladera (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n.
(Figs 1–6)

Type material. Holotype: male, labelled "W IRAN, p. Lorestan / 80 km Horramabad / 33°27'N 49°01'E, 10.VI.[20]04 / M. Rejzek lgt. [white label, printed]"; allotype: same data; paratypes: nos. 1–3 (males) and 4–9 (females), same data. Holotype, allotype, paratypes nos.1–2, 4–8 are in RSCV, paratypes nos. 3 and 9 are in BMNH.



Figs 1–6. *M.* (*E.*) *jiraskovae* sp. n., holotype (7.8 mm): 1 – habitus, dorsal view; 2 – left paramere, lateral view; 3 – aedeagus, dorsal view; 4 – right paramere, lateral view; 5 – eye canthus, dorsal view; 6 – scutellum and pronotum, dorsal view. Scale 1 mm for Figs 2–6.
Obr. 1–6. *M.* (*E.*) *jiraskovae* sp. n., holotypus (7,8 mm): 1 – celkový vzhled, pohled shora; 2 – levá paramera, boční pohled; 3 – aedeagus, pohled shora; 4 – pravá paramera, boční pohled; 5 – oční canthus, pohled shora; 6: štítek a štít, pohled shora. Měřítko 1 mm pro obr. 2-6.

Description. Male. Dorsal surface matt black, venter chestnut brown; anterior margin of clypeus, lateral margins of pronotum and elytra and legs reddish brown, antennae pale yellow, hairs / setae yellowish brown. Holotype length 7.8 mm, width 4.1 mm. Male paratypes: length 7.6–7.9 mm, width 4.0–4.3 mm. Body elongate, slightly dilated posteriorly. Dorsal surface glabrous (Fig. 1).

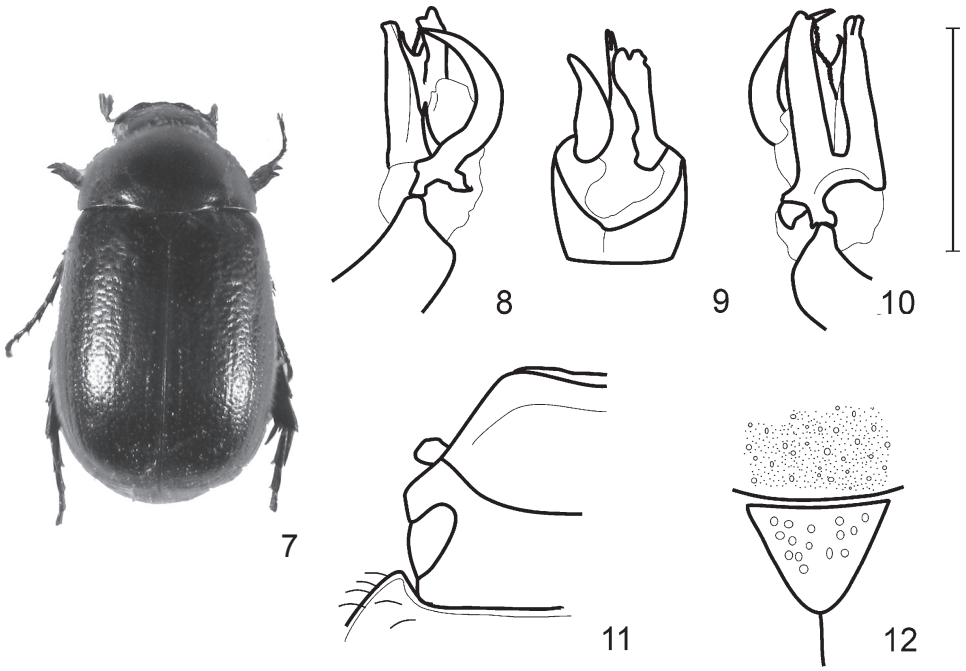
Vertex wider than long, coarsely punctate. Clypeus with anterior margin gently upturned. Canthus (Fig. 5) wide, reaching midlength of eye, apically tapering. Frontoclypeal suture straight, discrete only laterally, medially obsolete.

Antenna 10-segmented, briefly and sparsely hirsute, club with all three segments of equal length.

Pronotum wider than long, glossy brown, glabrous, evenly punctate, spaces between punctures smooth even at magnification 20×. Base complete, markedly rimmed.

Scutellum obliquely triangular, sparsely punctate throughout. Punctures horseshoe-shaped, open toward apex (Fig. 6).

Elytra widest in posterior half, with 10 weakly indicated striae; intervals flat, punctate, some punctures enter striae. Epipleuron with short yellowish-brown hairs, evenly narrowing posteriorly and ending in rounded posterior angle. Apex curved (Fig. 1).



Figs 7–12. *M.* (*E.*) *hodkovae*, holotype (9.2 mm): 7 – habitus, dorsal view; 8 – left paramere, lateral view; 9 – aedeagus, dorsal view; 10 – right paramere, lateral view; 11 – eye canthus, dorsal view; 12 – scutellum and pronotum, dorsal view. Scale 1 mm for Figs 8–12.
Obr. 7–12. *M.* (*E.*) *hodkovae*, holotypus (9,2 mm): 7: celkový vzhled, pohled shora; 8 – levá paramera, boční pohled; 9 – aedeagus, pohled shora; 10 – pravá paramera, boční pohled; 11 – oční canthus, pohled shora; 12 – štítek a štít, pohled shora. Měřítko 1 mm pro obr. 8-12.

Pygidium evenly convex, glabrous, densely punctate throughout, spaces between punctures smooth and glossy.

Protibia acutely bidentate, inner spur sharp, 0.3 mm long. Metatibia with two equally long spurs. Tarsi briefly pubescent. Tarsal claws curved at midlength in right angles, their distal halves cleft, ventral teeth with upper edges straight.

Aedeagus (Fig. 3) slender. Left paramere (Fig. 2) arcuate, narrow at base, widening toward midlength and then narrowing toward open apex; lower part of base bearing small spike about one-fifth as long as arc length. Right paramere (Fig. 4) divided into dorsal and ventral branches, merging at base. Dorsal branch at base with pronounced, pointed tooth; upper edge of the tooth extending toward apex in a twice curved line. Ventral branch terminating in blunt apex. Inner edge of ventral branch without serration. Ventral edge of right paramere uninterrupted, with apex split (dorsal portion of split longer).

Female. Differs from male in being larger (length 9.0–9.9 mm) and having the antennal club shorter than stalk.

Name derivation. Matronymic, named in honor of Mrs. Jiřina Jirásková (Prague, CZ), a nature lover and a great actress.

Distribution. Iran, Lorestan province, near Horramabad and Dorud.

Differential diagnosis. *Maladera* (*E.*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. reminds of *M.* (*E.*) *hodkovae*, from which it differs primarily in having a markedly wide and characteristically shaped left paramere. Morphometric comparison of these two species is given in Table 1. The parameres differ also from all other Iranian species of the subgenus *Eusericula*: in *M.* (*E.*) *farsensis* Petrovitz, 1980, endemic to the Fars province, the left paramere overlaps the right (Keith & Ahrens 2002); and in *M.* (*E.*) *girardi* Keith et Ahrens, 2002, endemic to Ghaleh, the left paramere is also arcuate, gradually tapering, the dorsal branch of the right paramere covers the ventral branch, and the apex of the ventral branch is not cleft (Keith & Ahrens 2002).

Maladera (*Eusericula*) *hodkovae* Nikodým et Král, 1998
(Figs 7–12)

Type material. Holotype male and allotype female labelled: "IRAN, Zagros mts. 1800–2500m/ pr. Boyerahmad-va-Kuhgiluyeh / Kuh-e-Dinar ridge, 10km NE of / YASUJ, D. Král lgt. 1.-2.5.1996 [white label, printed]", "Maladera (Aserica)/ hodkovae sp. n./ HOLOTYPUS/ Milan Nikodým et/ David Král det. 1998 [red label, printed]" and "Maladera (Aserica)/ hodkovae sp.n./ ALLOTYPUS/ Milan Nikodým et/ David Král det. 1998 [red label, printed]" in NMPC.
Additional material studied. C Iran, province Fars, Yasug, NW Shiráz vill. Kákán, 30°40'N, 51°43'E, 13.VI.2003 Johanides, Rejzek, Kabátek lgt., 5 males and 4 females, in RSCV.
Remarks. Eye canthus slightly widening before midlength, then gradually tapering (Figs 7,11). Frontoclypeal suture arcuate. Spaces between pronotal punctae bearing fine, 2nd order punctures visible at magnification 20× (Fig. 12). Inner edge of dorsal part of right paramere finely serrate. Basal lower part of left paramere bearing a spike about as long as one-third of arc, the latter with upturned apex (Keith & Ahrens 2002, Nikodým & Král 1998) (Figs 8–10). This species has been so far known only from Boyerahmad-va-Kuhgiluyeh, Lorestan and Fars provinces (Nikodým & Král 1998, Keith & Ahrens 2002).

Key to species of *Maladera* (*Eusericula*) occurring in the Lorestan province

1 (2) Body matt, eye canthus equally wide throughout, evenly curved at apex; pronotum without ciliae; scutellum obliquely triangular, its punctures horseshoe-shaped; left paramere widest before midlength .... *M.* (*E.*) *jiraskovae* sp. n.

2 (1) Body medium glossy; eye canthus widest at one-third of length, then gradually tapering; pronotum ciliate; scutellum triangular with straight sides, its punctures circular and deep; left paramere widest at base. .... *M.* (*E.*) *hodkovae* Nikodým et Král

Checklist of the subgenus *Eusericula* Reitter, 1902

M. (*E.*) *ahrensi* Keith, 2005 – Iran (Haut Karoum, province not specified)
M. (*E.*) *farsensis* Petrovitz, 1980 – Iran (Fars province)
M. (*E.*) *girardi* Keith et Ahrens, 2002 – Iran (Ghaleh, province not specified)
M. (*E.*) *hodkovae* Nikodým et Král, 1998 – Iran (Boyerahmad-va-Kuhgiluyeh, Lorestan and Fars provinces)
M. (*E.*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. – Iran (Lorestan province)
M. (*E.*) *modesta* (Fairmaire, 1881) – Israel, Syria
M. (*E.*) *sinaica* Ahrens, 2000 – Egypt (Sinai peninsula)

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SOUHRN

V článku je popsán a vyobrazen nový druhu chroustka *Maladera* (*E*.) *jiraskovae* sp. n. z jihoíránské provincie Lorestan. Nový druh je porovnán s endemickým druhem *Maladera* (*E.) hodkovae* Nikodým et Král, 1998, z íránských provincií Boyerahmad-va-Kuhgiluyeh, Lorestan a Fars, od kterého se liší především typickým tvarem aedeagu, méně klenutou, širokou levou paramerou a tupým rovným koncem spodní části pravé paramery.

Klíč druhů podrodu *Eusericula* Reitter, 1902 v provinci Lorestan

1 (2) Povrch těla matný (obr. 1), oční canthus po celé délce stejně široký, apikálně plynule zahnutý (obr. 5); pronotum neobrvené; scutelum trojúhelníkovité, strany oblé, na ploše podkovovité tečky (obr. 6); levá paramera nejširší před středem (obr. 2, 3, 4) ..... *M.* (*E*.) *jiraskovae* sp. n.

2 (1) Povrch těla lesklejší (obr. 7); oční canthus v přední třetině rozšířený, apikálně zúžený (obr. 11); pronotum obrvené; scutellum trojúhelníkovité, strany rovné, tečky kruhové, hluboké (obr. 12); levá paramera nejširší u báze (obr. 8, 9, 10) ..... *M.*(*E*.) *hodkovae* Nikodým et Král

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Maladera* (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. (four males and 11 females) and *M.* (*E*.) *hodkovae* (six males and five females).
Tabulka 1. Tělesné rozměry *Maladera* (*Eusericula*) *jiraskovae* sp. n. (měřeni 4 samci a 11 samic) a *M*. (*E*.) *hodkovae* (měřeno 6 samců a 5 samic).

Species	Pronotum ♂ (length-to-width ratio) Štít ♂ (poměr délka : šířka)	Pronotum ♀ (length-to-width ratio) Štít ♀ (poměr délka : šířka)
M. hodkovae	1.80–1.86	2.01–2.06
M . jiraskovae sp. n.	1.64–1.69	1.86
	Elytra ♂ (length-to-width ratio) Krovky ♂ (poměr délka : šířka)	Elytra ♀ (length-to-width ratio) Krovky ♀ (poměr délka : šířka)
M. hodkovae	1.24–1.25	1.26–1.28
M. jiraskovae sp. n.	1.27–1.29	1.30–1.29