

A new species of the genus *Ectromopsis* Antoine, 1949 from Turkey (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Abstract – *Ectromopsis merkli* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini) is described from Central Anatolia (coast of Eğirdir Lake). The species is the most similar to *E. tantilla* Ménériés, 1848 from the Caspian depression (European Russia, West Kazakhstan) and differs in the body shape, structure of genae, the shape of pronotum and elytral punctation. Brief information about a relic type of distribution, trophic associations and adaptations of *Ectromopsis* spp. are given, as well as a key to species from the eastern part of the range. With seven figures.

Key words – Anatolia, Helopini, new species, Paratethys, supralittoral darkling beetles

INTRODUCTION

Ectromopsis Antoine, 1949 is a small genus of darkling beetles of the tribe Helopini (subtribe Cylindrinotina) with six species distributed on littoral sands mainly of continental waters: rivers and relict lakes, remains of the Neogene epycontinental basins of the Eastern Paratethys and the Mediterranean Sea (NABOZHENKO 2005, 2011, ABDURAKHMANOV *et al.* 2016). The range of the genus *Ectromopsis* is fragmented: species occur very locally on sands of the Caspian lowland, in the Araks valley, on the sands near the Balkan and North African rivers; one species *E. mendizabali* Cobos, 1953 lives on the sea dunes of Spain.

Species of the genus *Ectromopsis* are morphologically intermediate between *Nalassus* Mulsant, 1854 and *Xanthomus* Mulsant, 1854. Species of the former genus occur mainly in forests and alpine meadows, sometimes steppes and subdeserts and they are trophically associated with foliose epiphytic (often Physciaceae), epilithic or epigeic (often Parmeliaceae) lichens (NABOZHENKO *et al.* 2016a, 2017). Species of *Xanthomus* inhabit marine sand

dunes, having special morphological adaptations, such as translucent yellow body, long dense hairs on legs and fossorial or subfossorial protibiae (FERRER & WHITEHEAD 2002), weakly developed subelytral cavity (COLOMBINI *et al.* 1994; personal observations). *Xanthomus* are phyto-detritophagous beetles (LAGAR *et al.* 2016) and have well developed tarsi with large claws to move on herbaceous host plants (PONEL 1993). Species of the genus *Ectromopsis* have the same small and strongly convex body as *Xanthomus* and weakly developed subelytral cavity, but the colouration is dark brown and protibiae are not fossorial (as in *Nalassus*). Species of *Ectromopsis* are phytophagous and have similar mode of life as *Xanthomus*, feeding on herbaceous plants. They can be collected in mass with an entomological net at nightfall, as, for example, *E. tantilla* Ménétériés, 1849 (NABOZHENKO 2007).

The genus is not revised, but some important taxonomic works were published on species from Spain (COBOS 1953), the Caucasus, Russia and Kazakhstan (IABLOKOFF-KHNZORIAN 1957, NABOZHENKO 2005), Bulgaria (ANGELOV & MEDVEDEV 1981) and on the general taxonomy of the genus (ESPAÑOL & COMAS 1987). NABOZENKO *et al.* (2016) completed the diagnosis of *Ectromopsis* and allied genera. Below a new species of *Ectromopsis* is described from sand dunes of northern sands of Eğirdir Lake in Central Anatolia. The water fauna of this lake is relict and contains a series of Ponto-Caspian species (WILKE *et al.* 2007). Combination of conditions resemble those for *E. tantilla*, which also occurs in northern sandy areas around the Caspian Sea with rich relict Ponto-Caspian fauna (MORDUKHAI-BOLTOVSKOI 1979).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Beetles from the collection of Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary (HNHM) kindly provided by Ottó Merkl were used. We used light microscope Micromed MC-4-Zoom LED with the camera TouPCam 14.0 MP for photographing details of structures. Photographs of beetles were made with Canon EOS 5D Mark IV Body, lens Canon MP-E65MM F2.8 Macro, flush bulb Canon Macro Twin Lite MT-26X-RT, stacking was made using Stack-shot 3X with enlarged macrorails s/n 3734; the photo system is installed on a reproduction machine Kaiser Copy Stand RS 1. Images were stacked in Helicon Focus 7.7.4 Pro. Photographs of *Ectromopsis tantilla* and *E. bogatschevi* are taken from the website “Beetles (Coleoptera) and coleopterists” (<https://www.zin.ru/animalia/coleoptera/eng/index.html>).

RESULTS

ordo COLEOPTERA Linnaeus, 1758
family TENEBRIONIDAE Latreille, 1802
genus *Ectromopsis* Antoine, 1949

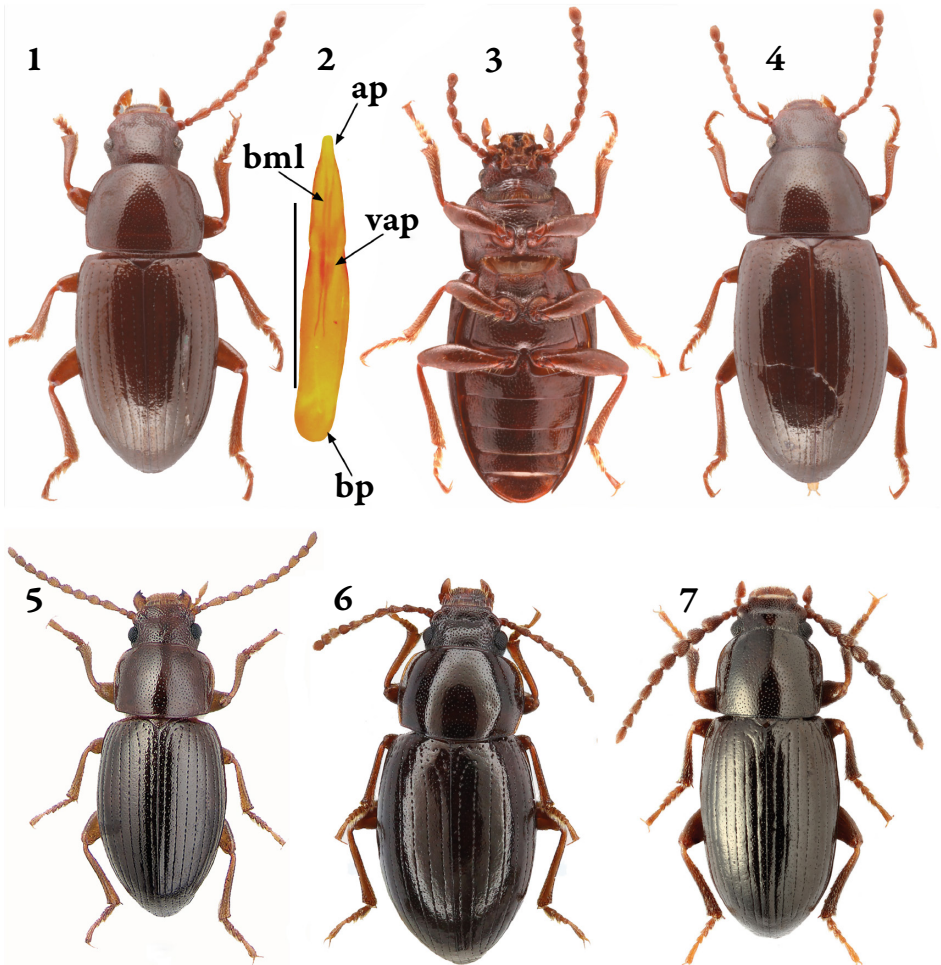
Type species: *Catomus politicollis* Allard, 1876

Ectromopsis merkli sp. n.
(Figs. 1–4)

Material – Holotype, ♂ (HNHM) and 5 paratypes (3♀ in HNHM, 1♂ and 1♀ in Zoological institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St Petersburg, Russia): “TURKIYE Prov. ISPARTA BOYALI”, “Coast of Egirdir-gölü” 2001. 05. 24. Leg.: G. & V. Rozner” [38°04'44.74”N, 30°50'52.56”E].

Description – Male. Body length 5 mm, width 1.9 mm. Body small, elongate-oval, with lacquer shine, brown. Anterior margin of epistoma weakly rounded, epistomal angles slightly projected. Fine fronto-epistomal furrow present only on lateral sides of head. Lateral margin of head between gena and epistoma with strongly obtuse emargination. Outer margin of genae angle-shaped in basal third and straight in anterior two thirds. Head widest at eye level, where 1.28 times as wide as interocular space. Surface of head with weak impressions on sides, between gena and epistoma, but without fronto-epistomal transverse impression. Head dorsally with sparse (puncture diameter near 1.5 times as short as interpuncture space) and moderately coarse punctation of round punctures; ventrally with very coarse and dense punctation laterally and coarse transverse wrinkles medially from gula to prementum. Eyes small, convex, weakly oval; head without short ventral groove near eye. Antennae moderately long, with two apical antennomeres extending beyond base of pronotum. slightly thicker than in female, gradually widened to apex, medial antennomeres 3–8 simple, not strongly thickened. Ratio of length / width of 2–11 antennomeres: 2: 2.2, 5: 2.4, 4.2: 2.6, 4: 2.6, 4: 2.6, 4: 2.6, 4: 2.8, 3.8: 3.1, 3.7: 3.2, 5:3.3.

Pronotum weakly transverse, widest in basal third (1.3 times as wide as long), 1.5 times as wide as head. Lateral margins weakly rounded, narrowed from base to anterior margin; anterior margin rounded, shorter than straight base; antero-lateral angles not expressed, widely rounded, postero-lateral angles weakly obtuse. All margins beaded, except for middle of anterior margin; base with thicker bead than that of other margins. Disc of pronotum strongly transversely convex, with the same sparse and fine punctation as head dorsally. Prosternum coarsely and densely punctate, with several long setae. Prothoracic hypomera with irregular fine wrinkles and sparse fine setation. Prosternal process setose, weakly convex, not protruding.



Figures 1–7. *Ectromopsis* imagines (for body measurements see the key in the main text): 1 = *Ectromopsis merkli* sp. n., male, holotype, dorsal view; 2 = aedeagus of *E. merkli* sp. n., ventrally (ap – apical piece, bp – basal piece, bml – baculi of median lobe, vap – ventral apophyses of apical lobe; scale bar = 0.5 mm); 3 = ditto, male, paratype, ventral view; 4 = ditto, female, paratype, dorsal view; 5 = *Ectromopsis tantilla* Ménériés, 1849, male, dorsal view (photo of K.V. Makarov); 6 = ditto, female (photo of S.V. Kolov); 7 = *Ectromopsis bogatschevi* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1957, male, dorsal view. (photo of K.V. Makarov)

Scutellar shield transverse, triangle, not punctate. Elytra 1.5 as long as wide, widest before middle, 1.8 times as wide as head, 1.2 times as wide and 2.38 times as long as pronotum. Striae consist of elongate separate punctures, which can be connected by fine furrows only at apex and on lateral sides; interstriae flat,

very sparsely and finely punctate. Epipleura depressed at base. Mesoventrite, mesepimera, mes- and metepisperna with coarse and dense punctation; surface of mesoventrite with recumbent setation; metaventrite with sparse and fine punctation.

Legs moderately long. Trochanters and flexion side of femora (especially meso- and metafemora) with dense long yellowish hairs. Tibiae almost straight; protibiae slightly dorso-ventrally flattened in distal 2/3, with projected outer anterior angle. Tarsi with dense brush of yellowish setae on plantar surface.

Abdominal ventrites sparsely and finely punctate; ventrite 1 with short recumbent setae; ventrite 5 completely beaded. Aedeagus typical for nalassoid Cylindrinotina (Fig. 2) (NABOZHENKO *et al.* 2016b).

Female. Body more robust. Antennae shorter and thinner, with one apical antennomere, extending beyond base of pronotum. Pronotum stronger narrowed to apical margin. Elytra widest at middle. Tarsi narrower than in male. Body length 5.2–5.6 mm, width 2 mm.

Etymology – The species is named in memory of my Hungarian colleague Ottó Merkl (1957–2021), great entomologist and friend, who made an invaluable contribution to entomology as a taxonomist, an editor of scientific journals, popularizer of entomology and the Hungarian Natural History Museum (SCHAWALLER 2021).

Diagnosis – The species is similar to *E. tantilla* (Figs. 5, 6) by the structure of antennae, but the shape of body is similar to those in *E. bogatschevi* (Fig. 7). See key below to distinguish the new species from other *Ectromopsis* on the east of the genus range.

Key to species of *Ectromopsis* from the eastern part of the range from the Eastern Mediterranean region to West Kazakhstan.

- 1(2). Anterior margin of epistoma widely emarginated, lateral margins of elytra weakly rounded, sometimes sub-parallel sided. Body length 4.8–5.6 mm. Armenia (Fig. 7)
..... *E. bogatschevi* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1957
- 2(1). Anterior margin of epistoma straight or very weakly rounded, sometimes with projected angles.
- 3(4). Elytral interstriae weakly but distinctly convex; striae deep, punctures merged in entire deep furrows, only in the middle of anterior half punctures connected, but visible. Body length 5–5.2 mm. Bulgaria *E. bulgarica* G.S. Medvedev & Angelov, 1981
- 4(3). Elytral interstriae flat; striae consist of separate, not merged punctures on elytral disc and connected punctures or interrupted striae on sides and apical part.
- 5(6). Body length not exceeding 4 mm; male antennomeres 4–8 strongly thickened, ball-shaped, with subequal length and width; elytra ball-shaped, strongly rounded on sides. Body length 3.4–3.6 mm. Greece *E. ovipennis* Allard, 1877
- 6(5). Body 4.5 mm and longer; male antennomeres 4–8 slightly thickened, elongate; elytra elongate-oval.

- 7(8). Outer margin of genae evenly strongly rounded; anterior margin of pronotum completely beaded; pronotum not narrowed in apical quarter, width subequal at level of anterior and posterior angles; punctures in striae deep, oval, not dotted. Body more robust. Body length 4.5–5 mm. Russia, Kazakhstan (Caspian depression) (Figs. 5–6)
 *E. tantilla* Ménétríés, 1849
- 8(7). Outer margin of genae angle-shaped in basal third and straight in anterior 1/3; anterior margin of pronotum not beaded in middle; pronotum narrowed in apical quarter, shorter at level of anterior angles than at base; punctures in striae very fine, dotted. Body more elongate. Body length 5.2–5.6 mm. Turkey (coast of Eğirdir Lake) (Figs. 1–4)
 *E. merkli* **sp. n.**

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Az *Ectromopsis* Antoine, 1949 gyászbogár génusz új faja Törökországból (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae)

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Összefoglalás – Az *Ectromopsis merkli* sp. n. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini) új gyászbogár faj kerül leírásra Közép-Anatóliából (Egirdir-tó partja). Az új faj leginkább a Kaszpi-mélyföldön (Oroszország európai része, Nyugat-Kazahsztán) honos *E. tantilla* Ménétris, 1849 fajhoz hasonlít. A két faj testfelépítésben, a pofalemez szerkezetében, az előtör alakjában és a szárnyfedő pontozottságában különbözik. Röviden ismertetésre kerül az *Ectromopsis* fajok reliktum típusú elterjedése, táplálkozási és alkalmazkodási körülményei, a génusz keleti felében elterjedt fajok felismerését határozókulcs segíti. Hét ábrával.

Kulcsszavak– Anatólia, Helopini, partmenti gyászbogarak, Paratethys, új faj

ÁBRAMAGYARÁZATOK

1–7. **ábra.** *Ectromopsis* gyászbogár imágók (a testméreteket lásd a főszövegben olvasható határozókulcsban): 1 = *Ectromopsis merkli* sp. n., hím, holotípus, felülnézet; 2 = *E. merkli* sp. n. aedeagus, alulnézet (ap – csúcsi rész, bp – bazális rész, bml – a középső lebeny nyúlványa, vap – a csúcstéri lebeny kinövése; méretléc = 0.5 mm); 3 = u. a., hím, paratípus, alulnézet; 4 = u. a., nőtény, paratípus, felülnézet; 5 = *Ectromopsis tantilla* Ménériés, 1849, hím, felülnézet (fotó: K.V. Makarov); 6 = u. a., nőtény, (fotó: S.V. Kolov); 7 = *Ectromopsis bogatschevi* Iablokoff-Khnzorian, 1957, hím, felülnézet (fotó: K.V. Makarov).