

**New species and new distributional data on Cteniopodini  
from the Palaearctic Region  
(Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae)**

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**Taxonomy, new species, descriptions, Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Alleculinae, Cteniopodini, *Omophlus*, *Odontomophlus*, *Podontinus*, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Palaearctic Region**

**Abstract.** A new *Omophlus* Dejean, 1834 species is described as *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) irbidensis* sp. nov. from Jordan. The new species is illustrated and compared with the closest species *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) syriacus* Mulsant, 1856. New distributional data for *O. (O.) syriacus* (Jordan and Lebanon) are added. New *Podontinus* Seidlitz, 1896 are described as follows: *Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov. from Iran and *Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov. from Jordan. The new species are illustrated and compared with the closest species *Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861). New distributional data for *P. punctatissimus* (Israel and Jordan) are added.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Omophlus* was introduced by Dejean (1834) and subgenus *Odontomophlus* by Seidlitz (1896). Species of this genus living in western parts of the Palaearctic Region: Novák & Pettersson (2008) listed 124 species in six subgenera. In present, 48 species of subgenus *Odontomophlus* Seidlitz, 1896 are known (Novák & Pettersson 2008), almost of them have dorsal surface of elytra ochre yellow. A new species with dark brown dorsal surface of elytra is described as *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) irbidensis* sp. nov. from Jordan. The new species is illustrated and compared with the closest species with almost dark brown or black dorsal surface of elytra - *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) syriacus* Mulsant, 1856. New distributional data for *O. (O.) syriacus* (Jordan and Lebanon) are added.

The genus *Podontinus* was introduced by Seidlitz (1896) for species *Cteniopus punctatissimus* Kiesenwetter, 1861 (as a type species) from Syria. Species of this genus have indistinct upper margin of elytral epipleura. Two new species of the genus *Podontinus* Seidlitz, 1896 are described as follows: *Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov. from Iran (Fars province) and *Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov. from Jordan. The new species are illustrated and compared together and with the species *Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861). New distributional data for *P. punctatissimus* (Israel and Jordan) are added.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the 'ocular index' dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and 'pronotal

index' (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals  $(100 \times \text{minimum dorsal distance between eyes}) / (\text{maximum width of head across eyes})$ . The pronotal index is calculated as  $(100 \times \text{length of pronotum along midline}) / (\text{width across basal angles of pronotum})$ .

In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows, a double slash (//) separates different labels.

The following collection codes are used:

HNHM Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary;

NMEG Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany;

SMNS Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany;

VNPC Vladimír Novák, private collection, Praha, Czech Republic.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows:

AL - total antennae length, BL - maximum body length, EL - maximum elytral length, EW - maximum elytral width, HL - maximum length of head (visible part), HW - maximum width of head, OI - ocular index dorsally, PI - pronotal index dorsally, PL - maximum pronotal length, PW - pronotal width at base, RLA - ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex ( $3=1.00$ ), RL/WA - ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex, RLT - ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1-5 respectively 1-4 from base to apex ( $1=1.00$ ).

Measurements were made with Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken by using camera Canon EOS 550 D and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and software Helicon Focus 5.2.

## TAXONOMY

### subtribe Cteniopodini Solier, 1835

### genus *Omophlus* Dejean, 1834

### subgenus *Odontomophlus* Seidlitz, 1896

### *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) irbidensis* sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-6)

**Type locality.** Jordan, Irbid, Umm Quais, 250 m.

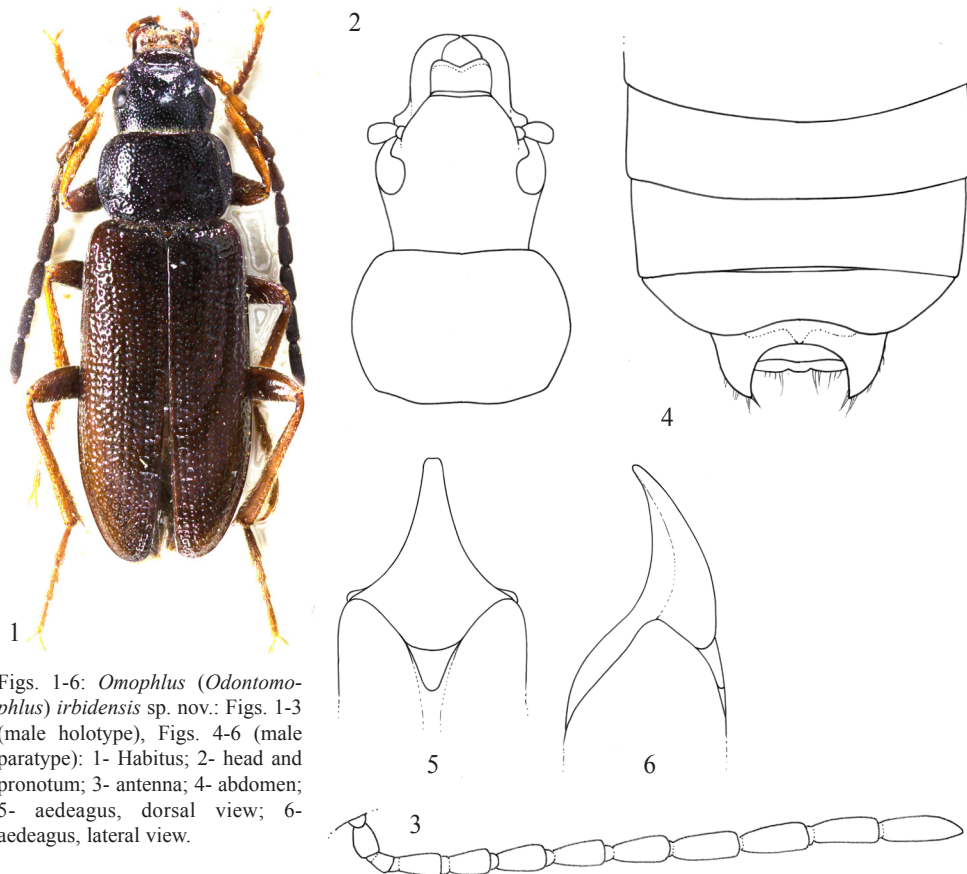
**Type material.** Holotype (♂): JORDAN - IRBID / Umm Quais m.250 / G.Sama leg. 20.V.99, (SMNS). Paratypes: (2 ♂♂): same data as holotype, (SMNS, VNPC). The types are provided with a printed red label: '*Omophlus (Odontom.) / irbidensis* sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS [or PARATYPUS] / V. Novák det. 2019'.

**Description of holotype.** Habitus as in Fig. 1, body narrow, elongate, from pale reddish brown to black, slightly shiny, dorsal surface with dense punctuation, BL 8.10 mm. Widest near two thirds elytra length; BL/EW 3.32.

Head (Fig. 2) long, shiny, distinctly longer than wide, distinctly longer than pronotal length, narrower than anterior part of pronotum. Posterior part blackish brown, with sparse

microgranulation, short, dark setation and dense punctuation behind eyes and sparse punctuation between eyes, punctures relatively small. Anterior part with large transverse furrow between insertions of antennae. Clypeus reddish brown, with long, pale setae, sparse microgranulation and sparse punctures. Mandibles reddish brown with blackish brown sides and apex, glabrous and slightly shiny dorsally. HW 1.51 mm; HW/PW 0.87; HL (visible part) 1.79 mm. Eyes small, transverse, slightly excised, space between eyes wide, OI equal to 70.95, distinctly wider than diameter of one eye; distinctly wider than length of each antennomere.

Antennae (Fig. 3). Relatively long, distinctly exceeding half body length (AL 5.15 mm; AL/BL 0.64) with pale setation, punctuation and microgranulation. Antennomeres 1-3 pale reddish brown, shiny with sparse microrugosities, antennomeres 4 and 5 reddish brown, slightly shiny with sparse microrugosities, antennomeres 6-11 dark blackish brown, with microgranulation, matte. Antennomeres 3-10 widest in apex. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomere 11 longest, with top, widest before apex. Antennomere 4 slightly shorter than antennomere 3, antennomeres 5-11 distinctly longer than antennomeres 3 or 4.



Figs. 1-6: *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) irbidensis* sp. nov.: Figs. 1-3 (male holotype), Figs. 4-6 (male paratype): 1- Habitus; 2- head and pronotum; 3- antenna; 4- abdomen; 5- aedeagus, dorsal view; 6- aedeagus, lateral view.

RLA(1-11): 0.69 : 0.52 : 1.00 : 0.97 : 1.08 : 1.31 : 1.39: 1.52 : 1.46 : 1.56 : 1.89.

RL/WA(1-11): 1.31 : 1.27 : 2.40 : 2.05 : 2.09 : 2.53 : 2.80 : 2.88 : 2.83 : 3.38 : 4.41.

Maxillary palpus pale brown with a few pale setae and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex. Ultimate palpomere darker and longer than penultimate, widest before apex.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) black, transverse, widest near middle of lateral margins, slightly narrower than base of elytra, almost glabrous, with relatively dense punctuation, punctures larger than those in head. PL 1.32 mm; PW 1.55 mm; PI equal to 85.16. Border lines complete, only in the middle of anterior margin not clearly conspicuous. Lateral margins arcuate, base slightly bisinuate, anterior margin almost straight, very slightly arcuate. Posterior and anterior angles distinct, obtuse.

Elytra. Dark brown, elongate, almost glabrous, shiny with dense irregular punctuation (large and coarse punctures and small punctures). EL 4.99 mm; EW 2.44 mm; EL/EW 2.05. Rows of punctures in elytral striae indistinct.

Scutellum. Pale brown, triangular, shiny with a few small punctures.

Elytral epipleura well-developed, short, slightly paler than dorsal surface of elytra, shiny, with a few pale setae and a few punctures, widest near base, distinctly narrowing to metaventricle, then indistinct.

Legs. Thin and long, with small punctures, fine microgranulation and pale setation. Tibiae and tarsi pale reddish brown, distinctly paler, than reddish brown femora. Ultimate protarsomere of each tarsus slightly widened apically. Base of inner claws of ultimate protarsomeres with distinct teeth. RLT: 1.00 : 0.60 : 0.52 : 0.57 : 1.62 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.80 : 0.90 : 0.86 : 2.63 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.54 : 0.45 : 0.84 (metatarsus).

Anterior tarsal claws with 9 visible teeth.

Ventral side of body with sparse, pale setae and punctuation, punctures small. Prosternum and mesosternum reddish brown, metasternum black. Abdomen (Fig. 4) black with pale setation, fine microgranulation and fine microrugosities, punctuation indistinct. Ultimate ventrite distinctly paler, brown with large, rounded excision. Penultimate ventrite with distinct transverse impression in middle of apex.

Aedeagus (Figs. 5, 6) pale brown, shiny, basal piece partly darker. Basal piece strong, slightly rounded laterally, almost parallel in dorsal view. Apical piece narrowly elongate triangular dorsally, beak-shaped dorsally and laterally. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece from dorsal view 1: 6.36.

**Female.** Unknown.

**Variability.** The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n= 3). BL 8.09 mm (7.87-8.30 mm); HL 1.83 mm (1.79-1.89 mm); HW 1.53 mm (1.47-1.62 mm); OI 69.27 (67.32-70.95); PL 1.37 mm (1.32-1.43 mm); PW 1.63 mm (1.55-1.67 mm); PI 84.27 (81.32-85.63); EL 4.89 mm (4.69-4.99 mm); EW 2.45 mm (2.39-2.52 mm).

**Differential diagnosis.** The closest species is *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) syriacus* Mulsant, 1856 from Cyprus, Israel, Syria and Turkey. Most of the *Odontomophlus* species have dorsal surface of elytra ochre yellow or pale brown.

*Omophlus (Odontomophlus) irbidensis* sp. nov. clearly differs from the species *O. (O.) syriacus* mainly by antennomeres 1-3, maxillary palpus, tarsi and tibiae pale brown or pale reddish brown, by pronotum with relatively dense punctuation, by penultimate ventrite with transverse impression and ultimate ventrite brown, by anterior tarsal claws with 9 teeth, by antennomeres 6-10 1.3-1.6 times longer than antennomere 3; while *O. (O.) syriacus* has antennomeres 1-3, maxillary palpus, tarsi and tibiae black or blackish brown, penultimate ventrite has triangular impression, ultimate ventrite is black, anterior tarsal claws have 13 teeth, antennomeres 6-10 are only 0.95-1.1 times longer than antennomere 3 and dorsal surface of pronotum has relatively sparse punctuation, distinctly sparser than those in *O. (O.) irbidensis*.

**Etymology.** Named after the type locality - Irbid in Jordan.

**Distribution.** Jordan.

***Omophlus (Odontomophlus) syriacus* Mulsant, 1856**

(Figs. 7-12)

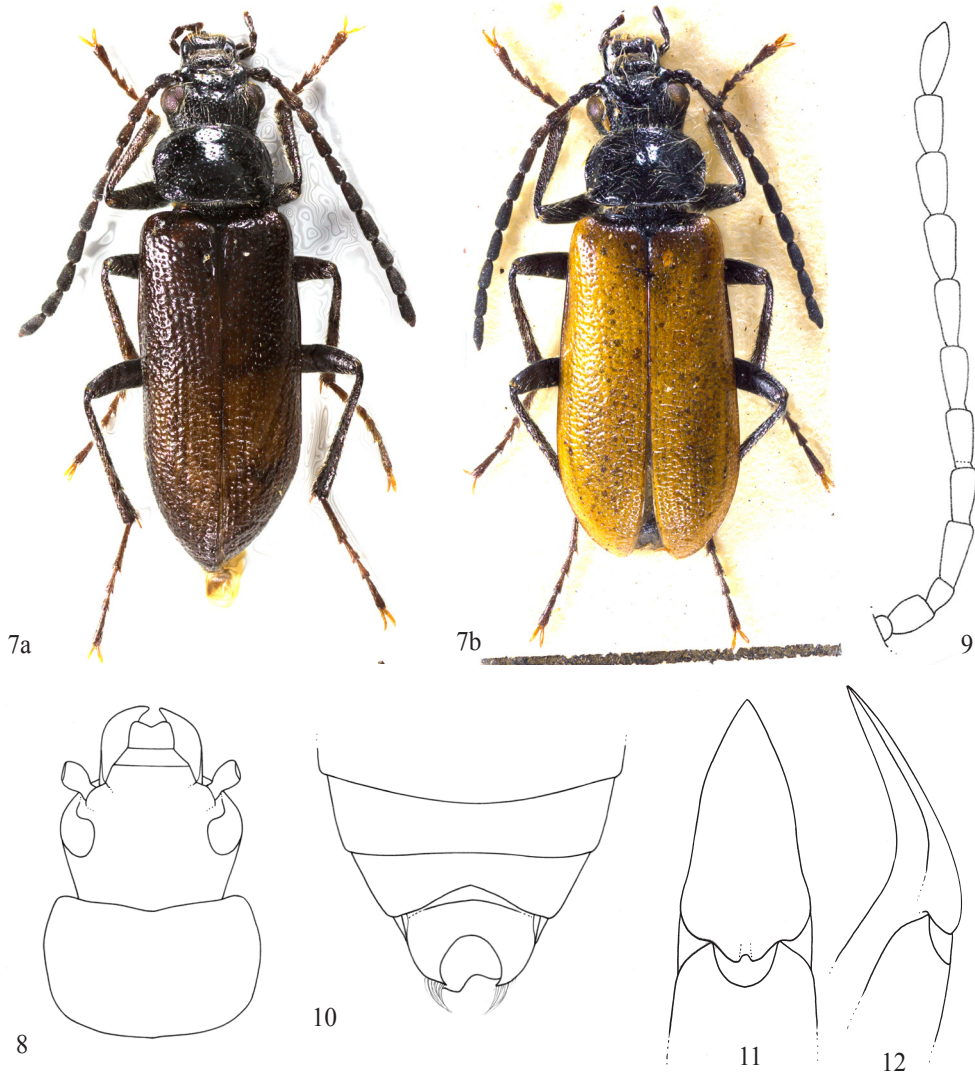
*Omophlus syriacus* Mulsant, 1856: 57.

**Type locality.** Syria.

**Material examined:** (1 ♂): Syria centr. occ. / Ma'lúla, 1650m / 8.5.1982 / Mír. Dvořák lgt., (VNPC); (1 ♂, 2 ♀♀): LEBAN., Northern gov., Bcharre / env., 4 km SE Ariz, singled at / snow banks, 34°12'41"N, / 36°3'34"E, 2570 m, 20.V.2015, leg. A. Márkus & T. Németh, (HNHM); (1 ♂): LEBAN Northern gov., Bcharre / env., 1 km E Ariz, Horsh Arz el- / Rab, ancient *Cedrus* forest, 34° / 14'33"N, 36°2'59"E, 1900 m, / 20.V.2015, leg. Márkus, Németh, (HNHM), new for Lebanon; (1 ♂): JORDANIEN C. / AL QUATRANA, / SALIYA, 15.4.2002 / Wadi MUJIB env. / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC); (3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀): JORDAN N / 10km N, NE of / JERASH / 20.4.2002 / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC), new for Jordan.

**Remark.** Dorsal surface of elytra is black or ochre yellow, habitus as in Figs. 7a,b; head and pronotum (Fig. 8), antenna (Fig. 9); abdomen (Fig. 10) and apical piece of aedeagus (Figs. 11 and 12).

**Distribution.** Cyprus, Israel, Syria and Turkey. New for Jordan and Lebanon.



Figs. 7-12: *Omophlus (Odontomophlus) syriacus* Mulsant, 1856, male: 7a,b- Habitus; 8- head and pronotum; 9- antenna; 10- abdomen; 11- aedeagus, dorsal view; 12- aedeagus, lateral view.

genus *Podontinus* Seidlitz, 1896

*Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov.

(Figs. 13-19)

**Type locality.** Southern Iran, Fars province, Passargad, 30°11'42''N, 53°10'06''E, 1870 m.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): S- IRAN: prov. Fars, / Pasargad, vic.tomb of / Cyrus, 30°11'42''N, 53°10'06''E, 1870m, 27.IV. / 2010, leg. A. Weigel #04, (NMEG). Paratypes: (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀): same data as holotype, (NMEG, VNPC); (1 ♂): S- IRAN: prov. Fars, / Persepolis, 1600m, / 29°56'07''N, 52°53'11''E, / 27.IV.2010 / leg. A. Weigel #02, (NMEG). The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Podontinus / farsensis sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS [or PARATYPUS] / V. Novák det. 2019'.

**Description of holotype.** Habitus as in Fig. 13, body relatively narrow, elongate, black, rather matte, dorsal surface with punctuation, fine microgranulation, covered by recumbent, pale setation, BL 8.71 mm. Widest near elytra half; BL/EW 3.11.

Head (Fig. 14) wide, approximately as wide as long, wider than anterior part of pronotum, black with dense punctuation, punctures medium sized and coarse. Interspaces between punctures very narrow, slightly shiny with microgranulation. Clypeus black, with shallow punctures, slightly shiny, anterior margin with long, pale setae and slightly emarginate in middle. Mandibles slightly shiny with fine microgranulation and pale setae in basal part of side margin. Frons between eyes with small, shallow impression near each eye and with large, transverse furrow between insertion of antennae. HW 1.45 mm; HW/PW 0.63; HL (visible part) 1.43 mm. Eyes relatively small, distinctly excised, space between eyes wide, distinctly wider than diameter of one eye; distinctly wider than length of each antennomere. OI equal to 60.80.

Antenna unicolored black, relatively short, with short, dark, recumbent setation, punctuation and microgranulation. Antennomeres 1-3 slightly shiny, antennomeres 4-11 matte. Antennomeres 2-4 distinctly widest in apex, antennomeres 5-10 strong and wide, antennomere 11 with distinct narrow top. AL 3.56 mm; AL/BL 0.41. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomere 11 longest, each of antennomere 4-9 distinctly shorter than antennomere 3.

RLA(1-11): 0.75 : 0.48 : 1.00 : 0.92 : 0.85 : 0.85 : 0.90 : 0.95 : 0.95 : 0.99 : 1.10.

RL/WA(1-11): 1.61 : 1.28 : 2.31 : 2.38 : 2.15 : 1.81 : 1.98 : 2.20 : 2.22 : 2.60 : 2.54.

Maxillary palpus (Fig. 15) black with fine microgranulation, slightly shiny. Palpomeres 2 and 3 narrowest at base and widest at apex, with dark setae distinctly longer than pale setae of ultimate palpomere. Ultimate palpomere broad, widest slightly behind the middle.

Pronotum (Fig. 14) black, transverse, widest in base, distinctly narrower than base of elytra, with recumbent, pale setation, dense punctuation, punctures approximately as large as those on head, intervals between punctures with fine microgranulation, distinctly narrower than diameter of punctures, slightly shiny. PL 1.60 mm; PW 2.29 mm; PI equal to 69.87. Margins not clearly conspicuous in apical half, lateral and anterior margins slightly arcuate, anterior margin with row of pale setae. Base slightly rounded. Posterior angles roundly obtuse, anterior angles indistinct.

Elytra. Black, narrow, elongate, widest in middle, with short, pale, recumbent setation, microgranulation and punctuation, punctures distinctly smaller than those in pronotum and

head. EL 5.68 mm; EW 2.80 mm; EL/EW 2.03. Rows of punctures in elytral striae not clearly distinct. Elytral intervals slightly convex.

Scutellum. Black, transverse, semicircular, with microgranulation, few punctures and a few dark setae.

Elytral epipleura black, the same colour as the elytra, with a few dark setae and punctures, widest near base, distinctly narrowing to ventrite 1. Upper margin not too much sharp in basal half and indistinct in apical half.

Legs. Black, tarsal claws pale, thin and long, with fine microgranulation and recumbent pale setation and semierect strong dark setae. Protarsomeres 1-4 short and transverse, ultimate protarsomere widened and arcuate in inner side as in Fig. 16. Meso- and metatarsomeres long and narrow, penultimate tarsomeres of each tarsus without lobes. Protibiae widened apically, distinctly stronger and wider than meso- and metatibiae. RLT: 1.00 : 1.15 : 1.06 : 1.06 : 3.50 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.61 : 0.49 : 0.49 : 0.88 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.62 : 0.53 : 0.83 (metatarsus).

Inner anterior tarsal claws with 4 teeth, distinctly larger and longer than outer with 8 visible teeth.

Ventral side of body black, with pale setae and punctuation. Abdomen (Fig. 17) black with pale setation, fine microgranulation and dense punctuation, punctures small. Ultimate ventrite with large semicircular excision with teeth from both sides in apex as in Fig. 17.

Aedeagus (Figs. 18, 19) ochre yellow. Basal piece strongly rounded laterally, in dorsal view regularly narrowing. Apical piece narrowly elongate triangular dorsally, beak-shaped dorsally and laterally. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece from dorsal view 1: 3.07.

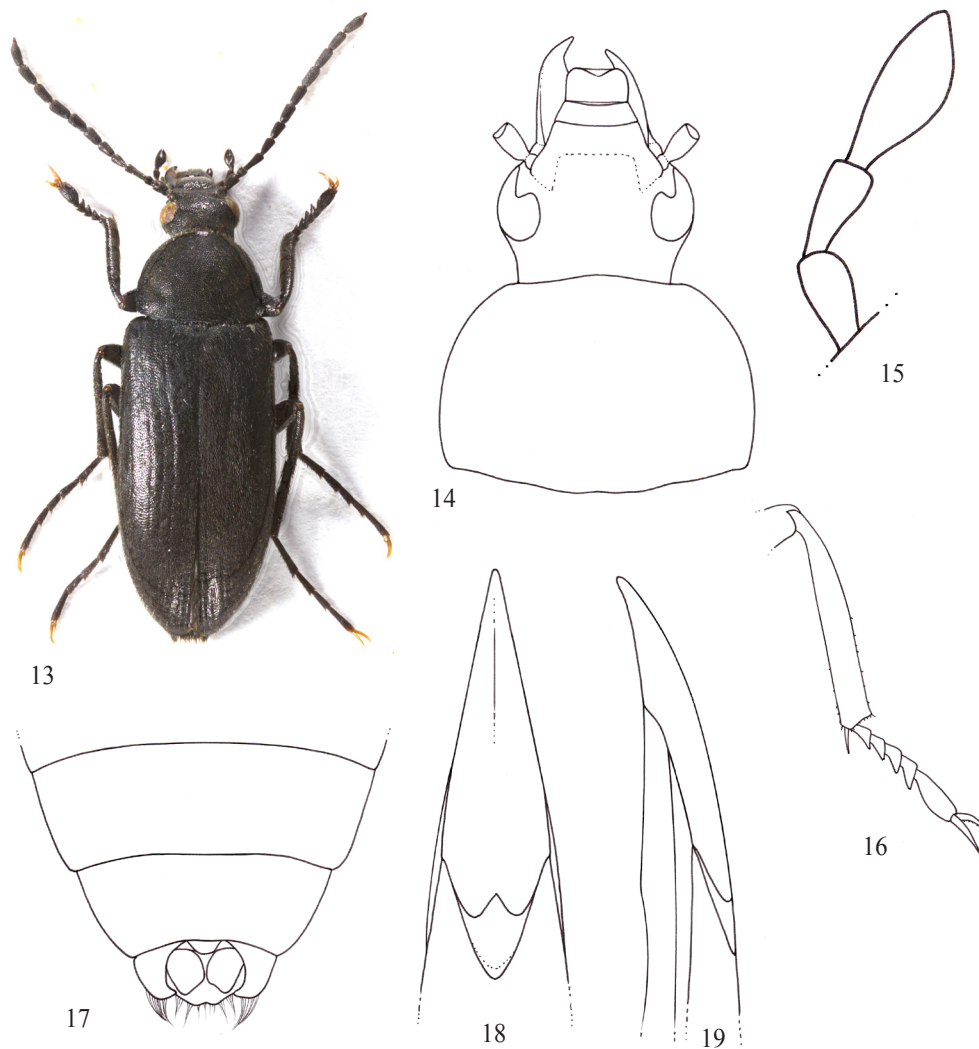
**Female.** Without distinct differences, only ultimate protarsomere not widened, pronotum slightly longer than those in male. Ultimate palpomere narrower than those in male. Anterior tarsal claws both with the same length and with 7 visible teeth.

**Variability.** The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n= 4). BL 8.32 mm (6.96-8.93 mm); HL 1.47 mm (1.23-1.62 mm); HW 1.46 mm (1.21-1.60 mm); OI 62.02 (59.76-64.85); PL 1.52 mm (1.30-1.67 mm); PW 2.16 mm (1.82-2.40 mm); PI 70.41 (69.58-71.43); EL 5.33 mm (4.43-5.68 mm); EW 2.76 mm (2.28-3.09 mm).

**Differential diagnosis.** Similar species are *Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov. from Jordan and *Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861) from Israel, Jordan and Syria.

*Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov. clearly differs from the species *P. mujibensis* sp. nov. and *P. punctatissimus* mainly by antenna distinctly shorter than half body length (AL/BL 0.41) and antennomeres 6-9 distinctly shorter than antennomere 3, by ultimate protarsomere slightly widened (Fig. 16) and by structure of ultimate ventrite (as in Fig. 17); *P. mujibensis* sp. nov. and *P. punctatissimus* have antenna distinctly longer than half body length (AL/BL 0.52-0.54) and antennomeres 6-9 are distinctly longer than antennomere 3, ultimate protarsomere is distinctly widened (Figs. 23 and 30) and ultimate ventrites are as in Figs. 24 or 31.





Figs. 13-19: *Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov.: Figs. 13-17: (male holotype): 13- Habitus; 14- head and pronotum; 15- maxillary palpus; 16- protarsus; 17- abdomen; 18- aedeagus, dorsal view; 19- aedeagus, lateral view.

**Etymology.** Named after the type locality - province Fars in Iran.

**Distribution.** Iran (province Fars).

***Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 20-26)

**Type locality.** Jordan, Al Quatrana, Saliya, Wadi Mujib.

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): JORDANIEN C. / AL QUATRANA, / SALIYA, 15.4.2002 / Wadi MUJIB env. / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC). Paratypes: (13 ♂♂, 1 ♀): same data as holotype, (VNPC); (3 ♂♂): GIORDANIA / Al Quatrana, Saliya / Wadi Mujib, 13.IV.2002, leg. Snizek, (VNPC); (1 ♂): JORDANIEN S (Wadi RUM) / TUWAYYIL env. / 16.4.2002 / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC). The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Podontinus / mujibensis sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS [or PARATYPUS] / V. Novák det. 2019'.

**Description of holotype.** Habitus as in Fig. 20, body narrow, elongate, from pale reddish brown to reddish brown, slightly shiny, dorsal surface with dense punctuation, fine microgranulation, covered with short, pale setation, BL 9.03 mm. Widest roughly in humeral part of elytra; BL/EW 3.09.

Head (Fig. 21) reddish brown, wide, approximately as wide as long, slightly wider than anterior part of pronotum. Dorsal surface with recumbent, pale setation, dense punctuation, punctures medium-sized, interspaces between punctures narrow, distinctly narrower than diameter of punctures, only in the middle of dorsal surface between eyes punctuation sparse, interspaces between punctures distinctly wider than diameter of punctures. Clypeus pale reddish brown, with shallow, medium-sized punctures, shiny, with very fine microgranulation and a few long, pale setae, distinctly emarginate in middle of apex. Mandibles pale reddish brown, with blackish brown top, dorsal surface shiny, glabrous, with pale setae in basal part of side margin. Frons with transverse furrow between insertion of antennae. HW 1.51 mm; HW/PW 0.57; HL (visible part) 1.51 mm. Eyes relatively small, distinctly excised, space between eyes wide, OI equal to 59.38, distinctly wider than diameter of one eye and distinctly wider than length of each antennomere.

Antenna. Relatively short, slightly exceeding half body length (AL 4.69 mm; AL/BL 0.52) with short, recumbent, pale setation, small punctures and microgranulation. Antennomeres 1-3 pale reddish brown, slightly shiny, antennomeres 4-7 reddish brown, antennomeres 8-11 dark reddish brown, antennomeres 4-11 rather matte. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomere 11 longest, antennomeres 4 and 5 slightly shorter than antennomere 3, antennomeres 6-11 distinctly longer than antennomere 3. Antennomeres 1-10 slightly but distinctly widest in apex, antennomere 11 with distinct narrow tip.

RLA(1-11): 0.84 : 0.41 : 1.00 : 0.91 : 0.95 : 1.12 : 1.12 : 1.22 : 1.18 : 1.11 : 1.32.

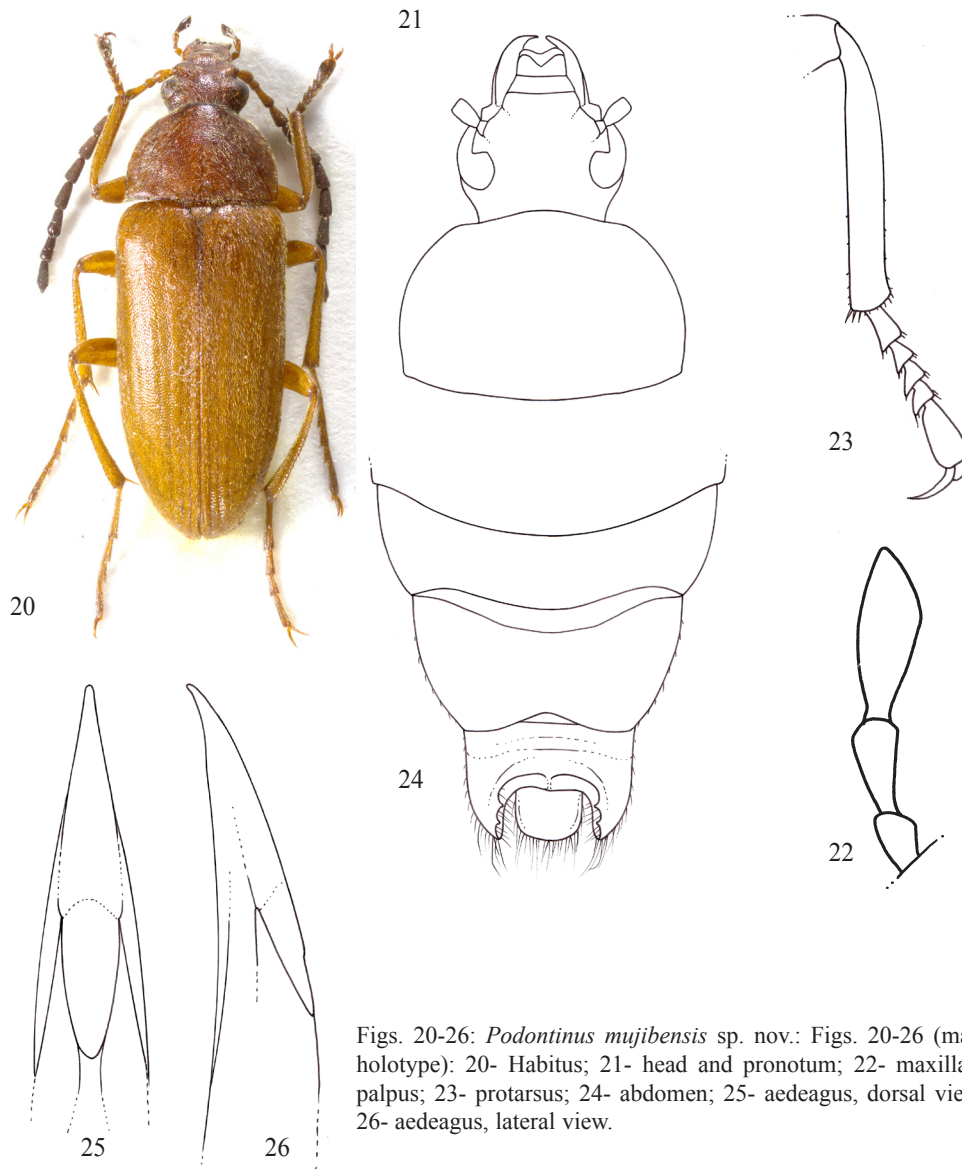
RL/WA(1-11): 1.85 : 1.09 : 2.21 : 1.68 : 1.94 : 2.02 : 2.06 : 2.25 : 2.08 : 2.06 : 2.72.

Maxillary palpus (Fig. 22) with short, pale setation, and fine microgranulation, slightly shiny. Palpomeres 2 and 3 pale brown, distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex. Ultimate palpomere long, dark brown, widest in two thirds from base to apex.

Pronotum (Fig. 21) reddish brown, transverse, widest near one third of lateral margins from base to apex, approximately as wide as base of elytra, with recumbent, pale setation, dense punctuation, punctures medium-sized, approximately as large as those in head, interspaces between punctures narrow, narrower than diameter of punctures, shiny, microgranulation not clearly distinct. PL 1.68 mm; PW 2.63 mm; PI equal to 63.88. Border lines not clearly conspicuous in anterior margin and in lateral margins near indistinct anterior

angles, lateral margins parallel in posterior half and arcuate in anterior part. Base almost straight. Posterior angles roundly obtuse.

Elytra. Pale reddish brown, distinctly paler than pronotum, narrow, elongate, parallel, slightly convex, with recumbent, pale setation, slightly shiny. Widest near middle elytra length, EL 5.84 mm; EW 2.92 mm; EL/EW 2.00. Elytral striae indistinct, dorsal surface with



Figs. 20-26: *Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov.: Figs. 20-26 (male holotype): 20- Habitus; 21- head and pronotum; 22- maxillary palpus; 23- protarsus; 24- abdomen; 25- aedeagus, dorsal view; 26- aedeagus, lateral view.

dense punctuation and microgranulation, punctures small, distinctly smaller than those in pronotum and head. Suture in basal part slightly and narrowly darker than surface of elytra.

Scutellum. Reddish brown as elytron itself with sides narrowly darker, wide, roundly triangular, with a few punctures, long, pale setae and microgranulation.

Elytral epipleura pale reddish brown, wide, with pale setae, widest near base, slightly narrowing to ventrite 1, then relatively wide and parallel. Upper margin very fine and slightly distinct in basal half and indistinct in apical half.

Legs. Pale reddish brown, thin and long, with punctuation and pale setation. Tibiae with strong setae, darker than pale setation. Tibiae widened apically, protibiae distinctly wider and stronger than meso- and metatibiae. Protarsomeres 1-4 short and transverse, ultimate protarsomere roundly widened in inner side (Fig. 23), with distinct shallow punctures. Penultimate tarsomere of each tarsus not lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 0.93 : 0.83 : 0.83 : 2.65 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.57 : 0.45 : 0.38 : 0.96 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.46 : 0.39 : 0.73 (metatarsus).

Anterior tarsal claws with 7 teeth, inner claw distinctly longer than outer.

Ventral side of body with pale setation and punctuation, punctures small. Prosternum reddish brown, distinctly darker than meso- and metasternum with denser punctuation. Abdomen pale reddish brown with pale setation, fine microgranulation and dense punctuation, punctures small. Ultimate ventrite strongly, widely and roundly excised, with two small teeth inside of excision (as in Fig. 24).

Aedeagus (Figs. 25, 26) ochre yellow, slightly shiny. Basal piece rounded laterally, in dorsal view slightly narrowing. Apical piece narrowly elongate triangular dorsally, beak-shaped dorsally and laterally. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece from dorsal view 1: 4.37.

**Female.** Without distinct differences, only ultimate protarsomere not widened, ultimate palpomere narrower than those in male. Legs reddish brown, anterior tarsal claws with same length and both with 7 visible teeth.

**Variability.** A few specimens have dorsal surface black. The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n=18). BL 7.80 mm (7.07-9.03 mm); HL 1.31 mm (1.21-1.51 mm); HW 1.33 mm (1.20-1.51 mm); OI 57.45 (52.99-61.71); PL 1.49 mm (1.29-1.68 mm); PW 2.16 mm (1.95-2.63 mm); PI 68.10 (63.88-71.98); EL 4.94 mm (4.48-5.84 mm); EW 2.45 mm (2.16-2.92 mm).

**Differential diagnosis.** Similar species are *Podontinus farsensis* sp. nov. from Iran and *Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861) from Israel, Jordan and Syria.

*Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov. clearly differs from the species *P. farsensis* mainly by dorsal surface of elytra pale reddish brown, by ultimate ventrite with two small teeth inside of excision (as in Fig. 24) and by antenna distinctly longer than half body length (AL/BL 0.52, each of antennomeres 6-9 is longer than antennomere 3); while in *P. farsensis* antenna not reaching half body length (AL/BL 0.41, each of antennomeres 6-9 is shorter than antennomere 3) and dorsal surface of *P. farsensis* is black and ultimate ventrite is as in Fig. 17.

*Podontinus mujibensis* sp. nov. is distinctly different from similar species *P. punctatissimus* mainly by dorsal surface of elytra pale reddish brown, by shape of pronotum (wider near one third from base to apex), by shape of ultimate palpomere (widest near two thirds from base to apex) and by ultimate ventrite with two small teeth inside of excision; while *P. punctatissimus* has dorsal surface of elytra black, pronotum is widest near base, ultimate palpomere is widest in middle and ultimate ventrite has no teeth inside of excision.

**Etymology.** Named after the type locality - Wadi Mujib in Jordan.

**Distribution.** Jordan.

***Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861)**

(Figs. 27-33)

*Cteniopus punctatissimus* Kiesenwetter, 1861: 238.

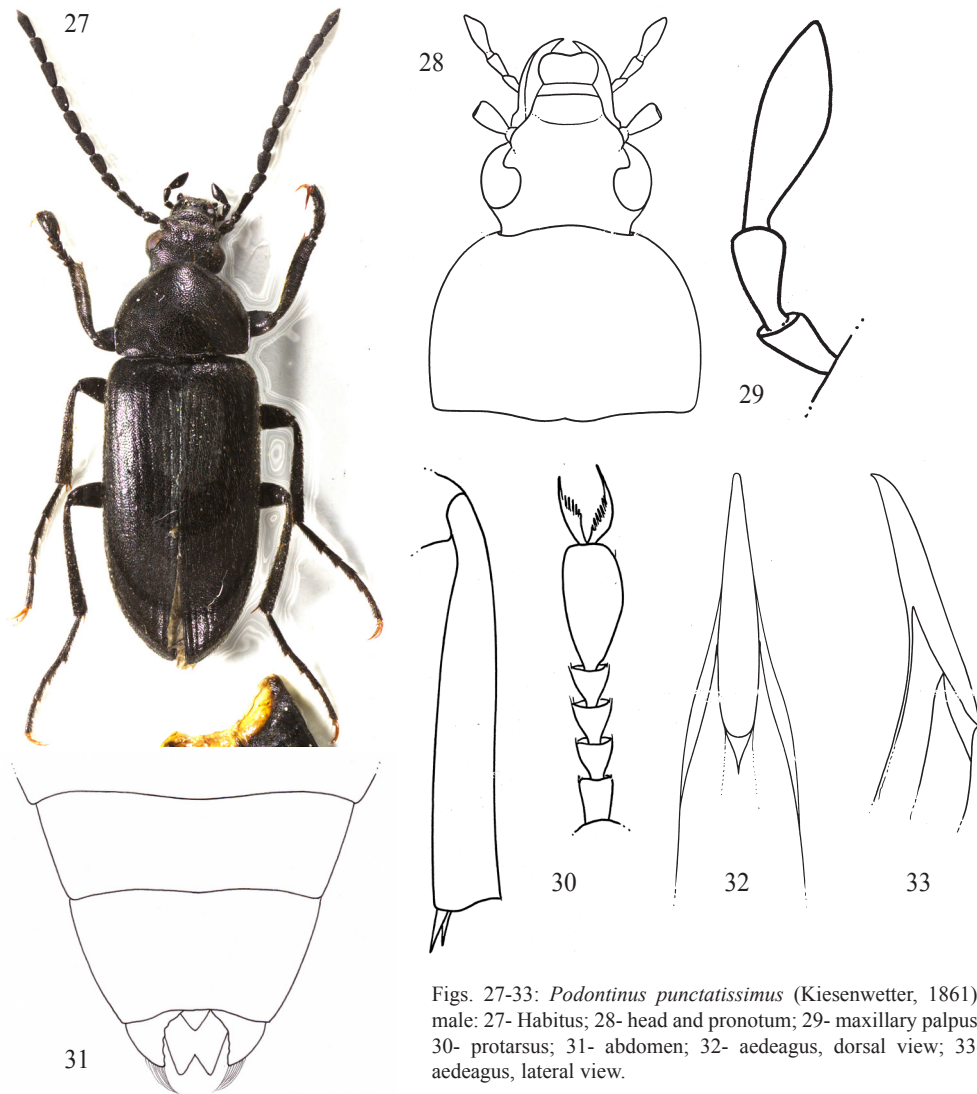
**Type locality.** Syria.

**Material examined.** (2 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀): ISRAEL or.; OLD / GESHER N32°62' E35°56' / near the yordanian border / 24.iv.2019 V. Novák lgt., (VNPC); (1 ♂, 5 ♀♀): same data, but 27.iv.2019, (VNPC). New record for Israel. (1 ♂, 1 ♀): JORDAN N / 10km N, NE of JERASH / 20.4.2002, LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC); (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀): JORDANIEN N / Riv. ZARGA vall. / GHARISA / 26.4.2002 / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC); (2 ♀♀): JORDANIEN CW / E of AT TAFILA / 19.4.2002 / LGT. M. SNÍŽEK, (VNPC). New record for Jordan.

**Measurements of male.** BL 8.89 mm, HL 1.46 mm, HW 1.48 mm, OI 61.48, PL 1.72 mm, PW 2.44 mm, PI 70.49, EL 5.71 mm, EW 2.90 mm, AL 4.82 mm, AED 1: 1.89. RLA (1-11): 0.69 : 0.50 : 1.00 : 0.94 : 0.88 : 1.07 : 1.06 : 1.18 : 1.07 : 1.17 : 1.39. RL/WA (1-11): 1.47 : 1.44 : 2.67 : 2.03 : 1.84 : 2.14 : 2.17 : 2.43 : 2.27 : 2.63 : 3.57. RLT: 1.00 : 0.97 : 0.97 : 1.00 : 2.70 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.57 : 0.52 : 0.43 : 1.01 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.52 : 0.47 : 0.80 (metatarsus). BL/EW 3.07; EL/EW 1.97; HW/PW 0.61; AL/BL 0.54.

**Remark.** Dorsal surface black, habitus as in Fig. 27, head and pronotum (Fig. 28), maxillary palpus (Fig. 29), protarsus (Fig. 30), abdomen (Fig. 31) and aedeagus as in Figs. 32 and 33. Inner anterior tarsal claws with 8 teeth, distinctly larger and longer than outer with 3 not clearly visible teeth.

**Distribution.** Syria. New distributional data for Israel and Jordan.



Figs. 27-33: *Podontinus punctatissimus* (Kiesenwetter, 1861): male: 27- Habitus; 28- head and pronotum; 29- maxillary palpus; 30- protarsus; 31- abdomen; 32- aedeagus, dorsal view; 33- aedeagus, lateral view.

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