

***Ocypus (Pseudocypus) aethiops* (Waltl, 1835) - new but not unexpected rove beetle in Canary Islands (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)**

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Western Mediterranean rove-beetle species, *Ocypus (Pseudocypus) aethiops* (Waltl, 1835) is recorded from Canary Islands (Tenerife) for the first time. Notes on the other Canarian species of the genus and hitherto distribution of *O. (P.) aethiops* are also included. A key to all *Ocypus* species known from Canary Islands is provided.

Key words: *Ocypus aethiops*, Staphylinidae, new record, Canary Islands, Tenerife.

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INTRODUCTION

Rove beetles (Staphylinidae) are the family probably most abundant in species in the world fauna - estimated species number is over 63,000. The number of known species is increasing fast: about 7,000 species was described in the last decade. Total species number is estimated approximately 100,000, considering insufficient knowledge of tropical fauna (Ślipiński et al. 2011; Frank, Thomas 2019).

348 staphylinid species (including Scydmaeninae) are hitherto known to occur in Canary Islands, which is ca. 17 % of total beetle species number inhabiting this region (Machado, Oromí 2000; Assing 2002, 2005, 2006; Frisch, Oromí 2006). More than half of them (176 species) are endemic; a substantial part occurs only on one or two islands.

Canary Islands harbor ten species of the genus *Ocypus* Leach, 1819, belonging to two subgenera - *Ocypus* s.str. (two species) and *Pseudocypus* Mulsant et Rey 1876 (eight species). Seven of them are endemic, recorded mostly from one or two islands; only *O. (O.) affinis* Wollaston, 1864 inhabits three islands: La Palma, Gomera and Tenerife. Six *Ocypus* species were recorded from Tenerife with two exclusive: *O. (P.) anophthalmicus* (Hernández & Aguiar, 1988) and *O. (P.) umbricola* Wollaston, 1864 (Machado, Oromí 2000).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

During entomological trip focused on collecting beetles, sweeping net, sifting and direct observation were applied. The specimen was captured by direct survey on soil surface from under the stone. It is deposited in the author's collection.

RESULTS

During entomological exploration with the use of diverse methods a specimen (female) of *Ocypus* (*P.*) *aethiops* (Waltl, 1835) was found, with the following label (Fig. 1):

- Tenerife: Macizo de Anaga - Pico del Inglés (Camino Viejo), 24.02.2012, picked under stone at the roadside in laurel forest; N 28°32'06.3" W 16°16'05.9" h=995 m a.s.l.

This species was hitherto known to occur in the Western Mediterranean region, entering also Azores and Madeira archipelagos (Fig. 2). Northern and eastern limits of its range run through France (Brittany, Île-de-France), Switzerland, Italy (only ssp. *O. (P.) ae. luigionii* (Müller, 1926) in Sicily), and Tunisia (Schülke, Smetana 2015). Despite its presence in neighboring regions, *O.*

(*P.*) *aethiops* has not been yet recorded from any of Canary Islands. Data on its habitat requirements are relatively scarce although it has been the most frequently observed in woodland where it was found in leaf litter and under the stones, avoiding open areas (Coiffait 1974; Silva et al. 2009). Circumstances of discovery confirm close relationship of this species with woodland areas. Occurrence of *O. (P.) aethiops* in this region is not surprising because it is known from neighboring regions and countries (Madeira, Morocco). Newly discovered locality is the southernmost point within the range of *O. (P.) aethiops*. The species is probably native but rarely observed element of Canary fauna although its entry from adjacent regions cannot be excluded bearing in mind growing intensity of tourism during last decades.

Key to species of *Ocypus* of Canary Islands

1. Last segment of at least labial palpus short, at most slightly longer than wide, broadly truncate apically. Palpifer usually with three apical setae. Subgen. *Ocypus* Leach.....2
 - Last segment of both maxillary and labial palpus elongate, longer than wide, in general fusiform, narrowly truncate apically. Palpifer usually with two apical setae. Subgen. *Pseudocypus* Mulsant and Rey.....3
 - 2. Last segment of maxillary palpi glabrous. Antennae, mouthparts and legs reddish brown. Hind wings reduced, not folded, reaching at most posterior edge of elytra; posterior margin of abdominal tergite V without narrow membraneous board. Body length 20-24 mm.....*O. affinis* Wollaston
 - Last segment of maxillary palpi finely setose. Legs brownish black, only distal segments of antennae brownish red. Hind wings double folded; posterior margin of abdominal tergite V with narrow membraneous board. Body length 20-32 mm.....*O. olens* (Müller)
 - 3. Body depigmented, yellowish brown. Hind elytral margins rounded. Eyes lacking; endogenous species. Body length 11 mm.....*O. anophthalmicus* (Hernández & Aguiar)
 - Body darkly colored. Hind elytral margins more or less straight. Eyes well developed. Body length 13-20 mm.....4
 - 4. Temples not longer than eyes. Abdomen not uniformly pilose, covered with brownish and grayish setae, often forming lines or spots in the middle and at the base of tergites.....5
 - Temples longer than eyes. Abdomen uniformly pilose, covered with one-colored setae.....7

5. Body dull, pronotum densely punctate, without glabrous longitudinal line in the middle. At least basal antennal segments yellowish brown. Tergites uniformly dark, in the middle of the base with round golden hair spot. Body length 14-20 mm.....*O. aethiops* (Waltl)

- Body more or less shining, pronotum with narrow, impunctate longitudinal line in the middle. Only distal antennal segments yellowish brown, basal segments blackish. Hind margins of tergites yellowish brown, hairs forms different pattern. Body length 11-15 mm.....6

6. Elytra wider and longer than pronotum. Pubescence on tergites directed obliquely, bright hairs form a pattern of 5 longitudinal lines. Body length 11-14 mm.....*O. fortunatarum* Wollaston

- Elytra as long as pronotum. Pubescence on tergites directed backwards, hairs bicolored, evenly dispersed, not forming any special pattern. Body length 13-15 mm.....*O. subaenescens* Wollaston

7. Head oval, its length equal to width; hind angles markedly rounded. Body length 13-17 mm.....*O. umbricola* Wollaston

- Head square or transverse; hind angles distinct.....8

8. Head without or with barely visible microsculpture. Abdomen lustrous, microsculpture visible only on sides of tergites.....9

- Head with distinct microsculpture. Abdomen with faint lustre, microsculpture visible on the whole surface of tergites.....10

9. Head transverse. Penultimate antennal segments slightly transverse. Body length 14-17 mm.....*O. canariensis* Gemminger & Harold

- Head almost square, its width merely exceeds its length. Penultimate antennal segments with length equal to its width. Body length 15 mm.....*O. addendus* (Lindberg)

10. Head transverse, temples one and a half time longer than eyes. Body black or blackish brown, 14-18 mm long.....*O. sylvaticus* Wollaston

- Head square, temples three times longer than eyes. Body reddish brown, 15-16 mm long.....*O. mateui* (Coiffait)



Fig. 1. *Ocypus aethiops* (Waltl) - a specimen caught by author; scale bar = 2 mm

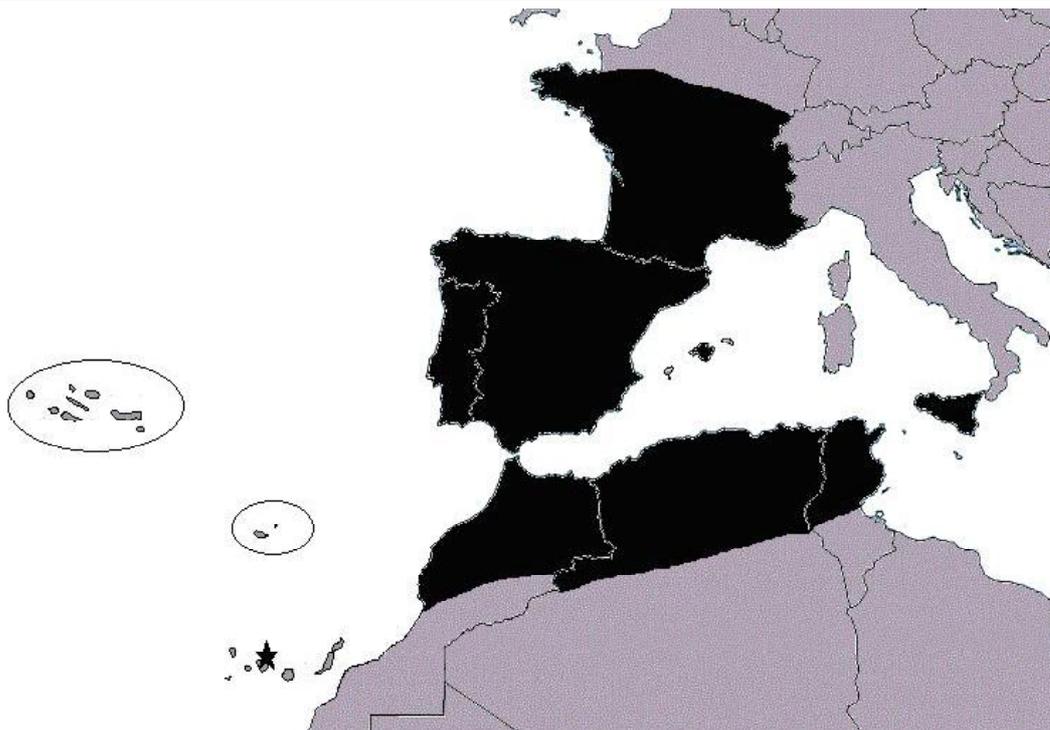


Fig. 2. Distribution map of *Ocypus aethiops* (Waltl, 1835) (black and elliptic fields); newly discovered locality marked with asterisk

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