

A new species of **Athous** Eschscholtz (Coleoptera: Elateridae) from Turkey*

Giuseppe PLATIA**

Bahattin KOVANCI***

Summary

A new species of **Athous** Eschscholtz belong to subgenus **Orthathous** Reitter, **A. (O.) fragariae** n. sp. is described from Turkey. Adults of this species were collected from the strawberry fields of Bursa in northwestern Turkey. Later, they were recorded on grasses in thinner oaken forests on southern hillslopes in Bursa and Kütahya.

Key words: Elateridae, **Athous**, **Orthathous**, new species, strawberry, Bursa, Turkey
Anahtar sözcükler: Elateridae, **Athous**, **Orthathous**, yeni tür, çilek, Bursa, Türkiye

Introduction

Several historically important contributions to the Turkish fauna of Elateridae were made by Fairmaire (1866), Bodemeyer (1900), Schenkling (1925-1927), Yüksel (1970) and Guglielmi & Platia (1985). According to Lodos (1998), 23 **Athous** species were recorded from the country and eight of these species were described by Guglielmi & Platia (1985). On the other hand, of these species, 10 are endemic, suggesting high species richness for **Athous** on Turkey. Recently other new species of **Athous** (**Orthathous**) were described by Platia & Gudenzi (1996), Platia & Tarnawsky (1998), Platia (2003) and Platia (2004). With these new contributions, the known species of **Athous** from Turkey totaled 35. We report here another new species for the first time from strawberry fields of Bursa, which was later found on grasses in thinner oaken forests of Bursa and Kütahya.

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** Via Molina Vecchio 21, 47030 Gatteo (Forli), Italy

*** Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Uludağ University, 16059 Bursa, Turkey
e-posta: bkovanci@uludag.edu.tr
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Material and Methods

Specimens were collected by using a sweep net from strawberry fields of Bursa and thinner oaken forests of Bursa and Kütahya during 1998-2002.

Body measurement: Body length was measured along the midline from the anterior margin of frons to the apex of the elytra. The width was measured across the broadest part of elytra. The pronotal length was measured along the midline, the width at the broadest part and at the hind angles.

Male genitalia: The aedeagus was extracted with a small dissecting forceps, washed with distilled water, dipped in a drop of euparal, and placed on a celluloid label.

Results

Athous (Orthathous) fragariae n. sp.

Material examined

Holotype male: South of Mount Uludağ, 30 km from Bursa, Bağlı (40.067° N, 29.088° E) (1090 m) 15. VII. 2000, leg. B. Kovanci (BK), Giuseppe Platia Collection (GPC).

Paratypes: Bağlı, 4. VII. 1998, 2 males leg. BK, GPC; 15. VII. 2000, 3 males, leg. B. K., Uludag University, Faculty of Agriculture, Plant Protection Department Collection (UUFAPPDC); South of Mount Uludağ, 45 km from Bursa, Keles, Aliç (39.913° N, 29.358° E) (1400 m), 10. VI. 1999, 1 female, leg. N. S. Gençer (NSG), GPC; 15. VII. 1999, 3 males, 17. VII. 1999, 2 males and 18. VII. 2002, 2 males, leg. NSG, GPC and UUFAPPDC. About 20 km south of Bursa, Çaybaşı environment (40.050°N, 29.083°E), 22. VI. 2002, 30 males, leg. J. Mertlik (JM), Josef Mertlik Collection (JMC); 26 males, leg. V. Dusanek, Vaclov Dusanek Collection; 11 males, leg. M. Samek (MS), Martin Samek collection (MSC); Kütahya, 5 km northeastern Domanıç (39.816°N, 29.633°E), 23.VI.2002, 5 males, leg. JM, JMC; 2 males, leg. MS, MSC.

Description

Male: Length 9.00-10.10 mm; width 2.85-3.00 mm. Head, pronotum and scutellum blackish; antennae and elytra dark brown; legs yellow-ferruginous; body with dense yellowish pubescence.

Head with eyes narrower than anterior margin of pronotum; frons concave in the anterior half, anterior margin complete, in the middle slightly thickened compared to lateral portions, a little prolonged and nearly touching clypeus; punctures broad, contiguous, more or less clearly umbilicate. Antennae (Figure 1) exceeding the tip of posterior angle of pronotum by about two segments; second antennal article subcylindrical, as long as wide; third antennal article conical, twice

longer than second antennal article and shorter than fourth; second and third antennal article together longer than fourth; fourth through tenth triangular, twice longer than wide; eleventh antennal article elongate-ellipsoidal.

Pronotum (Figure 1) quadrangular, as long as wide, moderately and regularly convex; sides moderately arcuate, with the greatest width at middle, sinuate before the posterior angles; posterior angles weakly divergent, not carinate; punctuation approximately of the same density on all surface, slightly sparser on the disk; punctures deep. Scutellum narrower than interelytral space; feebly convex, densely punctate. Fourth tarsal segment, in dorsal view, much shorter and narrower than third.

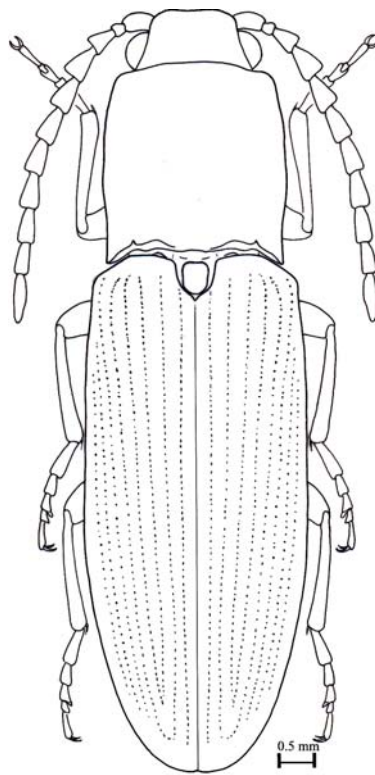


Figure 1. Habitus of *Athous (Orthathous) fragariae* n. sp., holotype.

Elytra broader than pronotum, about 2.8 times as long as pronotum and 2.3X larger than broad; sides subparallel in the basal half; striae well marked, punctured; interstriae flat to shallowly convex, coarsely punctate.

Aedeagus: Basal part U-shaped, exterior side of basal part straight, anterior side with medial concavity, the length of basal part slightly longer than half of the

median lobe, basal lateral arm broad (Figure 2); median lobe normally sclerotized, gradually narrowed towards apex; parameres merged basally to form two distinct lobes, lateral margins narrowed from proximal to the distal part, parameres with long, sharp subapical tooth, apex of paramere triangular in shape (Figure 2); aedeagus length 1.3 mm.

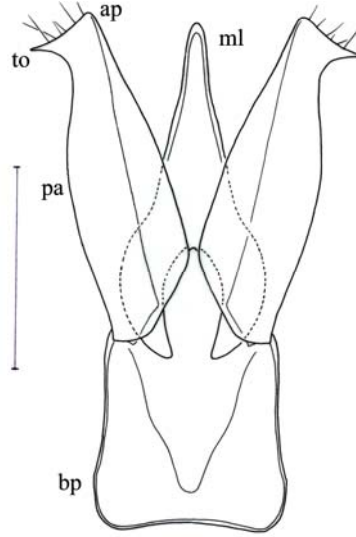


Figure 2. *Athous (Orthathous) fragariae* n.sp., aedeagus, dorsal view, bp, basal part; ml, median lobe; pa, paramere; to, tooth; ap, apex, scale line 0.5mm., holotype.

Female: Length 12.0 mm; width 3.9 mm. Elytral color yellowish-red; body larger and more convex than male; antennae shorter, exceeding the tips of posterior angles of pronotum, articles less serrate; elytral sides broader in the posterior half.

Comparative remarks

The new species is morphologically similar to *A. (Orthathous) malmusii* Platia & Gudenzi (2000) but can be distinguished by the less slender antennae particularly with the second and third segments less elongate and by the shape of male genitalia.

Name derivation

Named in reference to the strawberry plants on which the specimens were firstly collected.

Özet

Türkiye'den yeni bir *Athous* Eschscholtz (Coleoptera: Elateridae) türü

Athous Eschscholtz cinsi, *Orthathous* Reitter altcinsine ait yeni bir tür, *A.(O.) fragariae* n. sp. tanımlanmıştır. Bu türün erginleri ilk olarak Türkiye'nin Kuzeybatısında

bulunan Bursa'nın çilek alanlarından toplanmıştır. Daha sonra erginler Bursa ve Kütahya'da, seyrek meşe ormanlarının güney yamaçlarında bulunan otlar üzerinde bulunmuştur.

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