

**A short note about *Megamecus shevketi* Marshall; a name
used longtime as nomen nudum**

(Coleoptera: Curculionidae—Tanymecinae)

N. Lodos*

Summary

M. shevketi is not a new name, the species continued to be called up to now only in economic entomology being of some considerable economic importance as a pest of grape-vine in western part of Turkey. The name has recent years become well established in economic literature and agricultural reports. However none of these literature bears any description of the taxonomic sense.

Therefore to prevent confusing the nomenclature, it is described and illustrated here. The type (σ), allotype and several paratypes ($\sigma\sigma$, $\varphi\varphi$) are deposited in the British Museum (N. H); other paratypes ($\sigma\sigma$, $\varphi\varphi$) are also preserved in the collections of Plant Protection Research Institute, Bornova-Izmir; The Department of Entomology and Agricultural Zoology, University of Ege, Izmir-Turkey; Department of Entomology National Museum (N.H.), Praha-Czechoslovakia and Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona-Italy.

*) E.Ü. Ziraat Fakültesi, Izmir-Turkey.

Alınış (Received): 13.9.1979.

Introduction

This beautiful weevil resembles in general outline to **Tanymecus** Schönh., especially by the apex of rostrum (shape and hairs), shoulders etc.. However it is very easy to distinguish it by the fore coxae which situated near to the basal margine of prosternum (see fig. 2.A). It has also distinctly convex elytrae and somewhat longer rostrum which is generally flat and shorter in the genus **Tanymecus**.

The name **shevketi** is quite old name using in the literature. It was given to the genus **Megamecus** Reitt. by Sir G.A.K. Marshall in 1932 but, he never published its description. The name is then appeared first time in the literature (İyriboz, 1938) and later on several other authors used this name in Turkish literature and elsewhere but, none of them bearing the description which fails to satisfy the conditions of Arts. 11-16 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Since the species is an economic pest and has to be mention continuously in the literature, this was caused great confusing in the present nomenclature. Therefore to settle down this chaos, I asked to Dr. R.T. Thompson, British Museum (N.H.) who kindly traced Marshall's own hand written description (who apparently had no opportunity to publish it) and sent it together with the type and paratype specimens to me for examination.

Again, to prevent confusing the nomenclature, I used Marshall's name as the author of this species and also used mostly his description with some alterations and adding illustrations. Marshall's own description was indeed an excellent one but the type specimen who chosen was not good representative of this species in some respects. Therefore I had to replace it with a better and fresh material.

I am greatly indepted to Dr. R.T. Thompson, who kindly sent me the type and paratype specimens as well as Marshall's hand written description of this species.

Megamecus shevketi Marshall, sp.n.

(figs. 1, 2 A,B,C,D,E)

In the following references virtually the name **M.shevketi** is used as **nomen nudum** or misused wholly or in part.

İyriboz, 1938, Bağ Hastalıkları, p. 126: **Megamecus shevketi** M. (**nomen nudum**)- İyriboz, 1942, Bağ Hastalıkları, p. 123: **Megamecus shevketi** M.

(*nomen nudum*)- Alkan, 1946, Tarım Entomolojisi, p. 187: **Megamecus shevketi** (*nomen nudum*)- Money-Kryle, 1957, Agricultural Development and Research in Turkey: **Megamelus shevketi** (*lapsus calami*)- Nizamlioglu, 1957, Türkiye Meyve Ağacı Zararlıları ve Mücadelesi, p.131: **Megamecus shevketi** (*nomen nudum*)- Bodenheimer, 1958, Türkiye'de Ziraata ve Ağaçlara Zararlı Olan Böcekler ve Bunlarla Savaş Hakkında Bir Etüd, p. 143: **Megamecus albomarginatus** Gyll. (*lapsus calami*)- Gerini, 1971, Contributo alla Conoscenza della Entomofauna Novica della Turchia, p.14: **Megamelus shevketi** (*lapsus calami*)- İren and Ahmet, 1973, Insect pests of Turkey Found on Deciduous Fruits (Meyve Zararlıları), p.44: **Megamecus albomarginatus** Gyll. (*lapsus calami*), **Megamecus shevketi** M. (*nomen nudum*)- Lodos et al., 1978, Ege ve Marmara Bölgelerinin Zararlı Böcek Faunasının Tesbiti Üzerinde Çalışmalar, p.110: **Megamecus shevketi** (Marsh.) (*lapsus calami*, *nomen nudum*).

Material examined

110 specimens (♂♂, ♀♀) are deposited in the collection of E.Ü. Ziraat Fakültesi, İzmir; 96 specimens (♂♂, ♀♀) are also preserved in the collection of Plant Protection Research Institute, İzmir; 1 ♂, Denizli, 4.IV.1932 labelled as type- 3 ♀♀, 21.IV.1932 Menemen (a district town of İzmir) labelled as cotype- 1 ♀, 14.IV.1932 Menemen (These last 5 specimens belong to British Museum, N.H.).

Material distribution (fig.3): Manisa (Turgutlu, Saruhanlı, Salihli), İzmir (Menemen, Selçuk, Kemalpaşa, Bornova), Aydın, Denizli.

Description of holotype (♂) and allotype.

General shape and colour: Body oblong, almost parallel sided in ♂ and slightly widened posteriorly in ♀, surface of elytra distinctly convex. Integument black, upper surface densely clothed with light small rounded scales and also narrow sparse declined scales, often with a slightly brassy reflection, underside paler, prothorax with a broad ill-defined paler lateral stripe which is only narrowly visible from above. Some specimens much darker in colour.

Head with the very shallow subconfluent punctures hidden by scales; forehead only slightly convex transversally, with a very small median fovea on the vertex; eyes black, somewhat oval in form, strongly convex, the temples two-thirds the length of an eye. Rostrum somewhat long, as long as (♂) or slightly longer than broad (♀), somewhat parallel-sided in the basal half and dilated at the apex, the scrobes largely visible from

above; the dorsal surface almost flat on the basal half, usually with an indistinct fine median carina, the apex with a shallow and somewhat V shaped impression, with somewhat long hairs opposing to each other on the edge of the impression. Antennae piceous brown, with the scape reaching the hind margin of the eye; funiculi with joint 1st longer than 2nd, 3 to 7 subequal and longer than broad in ♂; in ♀, 3rd equal to 7th, 4-6 shorter, as long as broad or transverse. Prothorax as long as broad and somewhat cylindrical in shape (♂) or a little broader than long (♀), somewhat rounded at the sides of both sexes; the base arcuate with a very shallow sinuation in the middle, wider than apex, which is truncate; the dorsum closely subconfluent punctate, with a trace of abbreviated impunctate median line and a shallow transverse impression near the apex; the scales never overlapping and for the most part separated, with inclined short narrow scales dispersed on the surface between the rounded scales. Elytra oblong-ovate, distinctly convex on the above, rather broad in (♀), narrower in (♂), deeply sinuate at the base, with a well-marked subapical lateral construction, the apices separately produced into a short process the lateral margins not fringed with scales and setae near the apex; striae rather shallow at the base, becoming deeper behind, with distinct separated punctures, mostly each containing inclined a narrow scale. Front coxae situated near to the basal margin of prosternum; legs with rather dense pale scales having a metallic reflection; the dorsal edge of the front tibiae curving gradually inwards at the apex; the tarsi clothed dorsally somewhat rounded scales and setae on the two basal joints but with only setae on the remaining distal joints. Venter of ♀ without a bare lateral stripe on the last ventrite.

Characteristics of aedeagus see fig. 2.D.E

Length (♂♂, ♀♀) 8.5 - 10.5 mm (from the middle of eye to the end of abdomen) being usually females larger than males.

Comparative diagnosis: In general characteristics this species is very close to *M. argentatus* Gyll. (distributed in Caucasus) but, it may be distinguished by the scaling on the two basal joints of the tarsi, for in all other known species of the genus the tarsi are uniformly clothed above with setae only.

Holotype (♂), Menemen (Izmir), 4.IV.1975 on grape-vine, allotype at the same locality and with 5 other paratypes are in the collection of British Museum (N.H.) and several paratypes in the collection of E.U. Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Entomology and Agricultural Zoo-

logy, Izmir-Turkey. The other paratypes are in the collections of the following institutions: Plant Protection Research Institute, Izmir; Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona - Italy and Entomologické Oddéleni, Narodni Museum, Kunraticé, Praha 4-Czechoslovakia.

Short notes about its biology and importance: It is a potential pest of grape-vine in a restricted areas in Western Anatolia. Weevils can cause appreciable damage to vine crop in some years. Special control measures are necessary to take against it. Adults devour the buds and very young shoots early in spring and they can be seen in the fields up to June in large numbers. Adults attack sometimes also to *Ligustrum* sp. Presumably it has one generation a year. Its larvae feed on the roots of various plants in the soil but their damages on the roots is not important. However, its biology and natural enemies are not known exactly.

Sex ratio is about 1:1 in the nature.

Özet

Megamecus shevketi Marshall üzerine kısa bir not

M.shevketi Türkiye için yeni bir isim değildir. Bu isim 1938 yılından bu yana özellikle ekonomik entomoloji ile ilgili olmak üzere gerek Türkçe ve gerekse yabancı dilde yayınlanmış eserlerde pek çok defalar geçmiştir. Ekonomik önemi nedeni ile son yıllarda ismi raporlar dahil daha da sık geçmeye başlamıştır. Ne var ki bu yayınların hiç birisinde description'u yayınlanmadığı için isim **nomina nudum**, yani çıplak isim olarak kalmıştır. Bu gibi isimler uluslararası Zoological Nomenclature'ce tanınmadığı için hiç bir değeri yoktur. Hatta değeri bir tarafa, nomenclature'ü de karıştırdığı için bu gibi isimleri literatürden arındırmak gerekmektedir.

İsim ilk defa Sir G.A.K. Marshall tarafından 1932 yılında bulanın ismine izafeten (Nihat Şevket Iyriboz) verilmişti. Ancak Sir Marshall, bu yeni bulunan zararlı türe ait elyazısı olarak hazırladığı manuscript'i bir türlü yayınlama fırsatı bulamamıştır. Böylece literatürde adeta bir çıban başı gibi duran bu problemi halletmek üzere, British Museum (N.H.)'ye müracaat ettim. Dr. R.T. Thompson'un konuya nazik bir biçimde eğilmesi sonucu, Sir Marshall'ın manuscript'i bulunmuş ve bununla birlikte müzedeki holotype ve paratype'ler description'u yapılmak üzere tarafıma gönderilmiştir. Böylece bu türle ilgili örneklerin description'u yukarıda usulüne uygun şekilde yapılarak bilim dünyasına tanıtılmıştır. Bu türe ait holotype (σ) allotype ve bazı paratype'ler British Museum (N.H.); diğer birçok paratype'ler ise kürsümüz koleksiyonu ile Bornova Bölge Ziraat Mücadele Araştırma Enstitüsü; Entomologické Oddeleni Narodni Muzeum, Kunraticé, Praha 4, Çekoslovakya ve Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, Verona-İtalya gibi müze ve enstitülerin koleksiyonlarında muhafaza edilmektedir.

References

- Alkan, B. 1946. Tarım Entomolojisi. T.C. Tarım Bakanlığı, A.Y.Z.E. Ders kitabı, No. 31, Ankara, 232 pp.
- Bodenheimer, F.S. 1958. Türkiye'de ziraata ve ağaçlara zararlı olan böcekler ve bunlarla savaş hakkında bir etüt. Translated by Naci Kenter, Ankara, 341 pp.
- Gerini, V. 1971. Contributo alla conoscenza della entomofauna novica della Turchia. *Riv.Agr.subtrop.*, Anno LXV, N. 10-12, Firenze, 48 pp.
- Iren, Z. and M.K. Ahmet, 1973. Insect pests of Turkey found on deciduous fruits (Meyve Zararlıları). *Bit. Kor. Bül.* suppl. 1:35-86.
- Iyriboz, N. 1938. Bağ Hastalıkları. Zir. Vek. Neş. Um. sayı: 323, Zir. Hast. sayı: 2, Ankara, 213 pp.
- 1942. Bağ Hastalıkları. Zir. Vek. Neş. Um. sayı: 323, Mah. Hast. sayı: 2, İzmir, 232 pp.
- Lodos, N., F. Önder, E. Pehlivan ve R. Atalay, 1978. Ege ve Marmara Bölgelerinin zararlı böcek faunasının tesbiti üzerinde çalışmalar. Zir. Müc. Zir. Kar. Gnl. Md., Ankara, 301 pp.
- Money-Kyrle, A.F. 1957. *Agricultural Development and Research in Turkey.* Fac. Agr. Sci. Amer. Un. Beirut, pub, 4: 202 pp.
- Nizamlioğlu, K. 1957. Türkiye meyve ağacı zararlıları ve mücadelesi. Koruma Tar. İlaç. A.Ş. neş. No: 9, İstanbul, 208 pp.

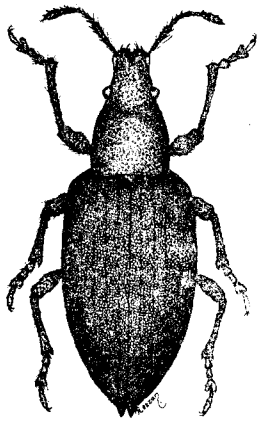
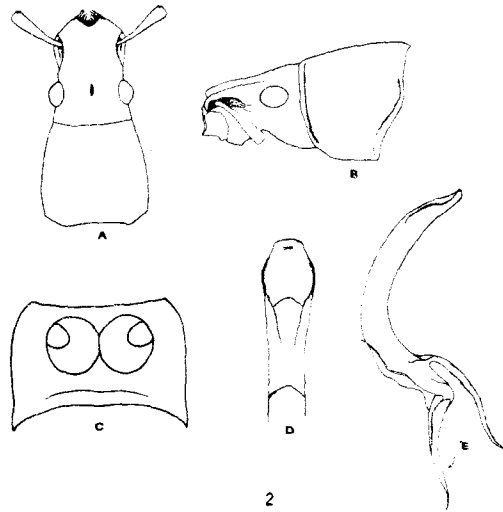


Fig. 1. *M. shevketi* Mshl. n. sp



2

Fig.2. Different morphological characteristics of *M. shevketi* Mshl. n. sp. (paratype, ♂); (A) Head and rostrum, dorsal view; (B) Head and rostrum, lateral view; (C) Prosternum; (D) Aedeagus, dorsal view; (E) The same, lateral view.

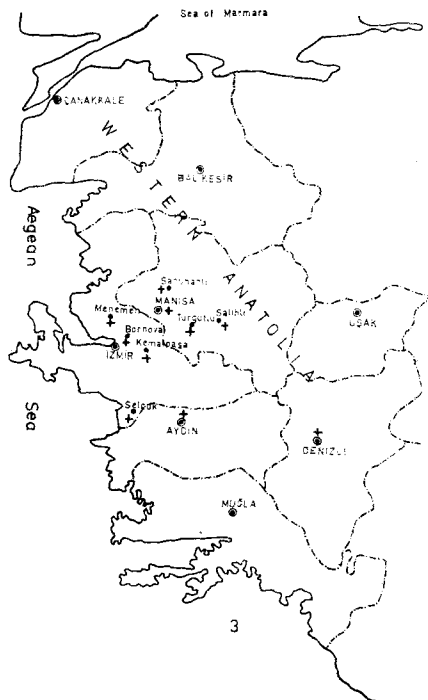


Fig. 3. Distribution of *M. shevketi* Mshl. n. sp. in Western Anatolia