

## New data on distribution and host plants of some Turkish Nitidulidae and Kateretidae (Coleoptera)\*

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### Summary

This paper is aimed to update our present-day knowledge on geographical distribution and insect-host plant relationships of some Turkish species of the pollen-beetle families Nitidulidae and Kateretidae. *Meligethes medvedevi* Kirejtshuk, 1978, endemic to Caucasus and known to date only from SW Russia (Circassia) and Georgia, is first recorded from Turkey (Erzurum province); *Meligethes biondii* Audisio, 1988, endemic to eastern Turkey, and known to date only from the single type locality in the Ağrı province, is recorded from a second locality in the Erzurum province. New interesting localities and new data on the larval host-plants and taxonomy are finally given for other rare little-known Turkish species, such as *Meligethes wittmeri* Jelinek&Audisio, 1977, *M. pectinatus* Schilsky, 1894, and *M. diversus* Schilsky, 1893. Adults and larvae of *M. diversus*, here referred to the *M. nigrescens* species-group, are reported to feed on the buds of *Onobrychis viciifolia* (Fabaceae), occasionally causing severe damages to the host-plants.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Kateretidae, Turkey, geographical distribution, host-plants

**Anahtar sözcükler:** Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Kateretidae, Türkiye, coğrafi dağılış, konukçu bitki

### Introduction

The Turkish fauna of Nitidulidae and Kateretidae has been recently dealt with and extensively discussed by Audisio (1993) and more recently by Audisio et al. (2000). The present paper is mainly intended to update our knowledge on geographical distribution and ecology of these beetle families in Turkey, listing a short series of data mainly collected during a recent fieldtrip to eastern Turkey by one of us (G.A.) or obtained from a long series of applied field researches carried out in the same areas at the end of the past century by H. Özbek and İ. Aslan.

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Acronyms of the studied collections

**CAR:** P. Audisio Collection, University "La Sapienza", Rome (Italy).

**EMET:** Entomology Museum, Erzurum, Turkey.

## Results

In this study, material belonging to 24 species of Nitidulidae and one species of Kateretidae was examined from Turkey.

### Nitidulidae

#### **Xenostrongylus levantinus** Audisio & Jelínek, 2001

This species has been first cited by Audisio et al. (2000) under **X.** sp. cfr. **lateralis**. As discussed in a recently published paper (Audisio et al., 2001b), this new species, collected in a single locality on the Amanus Mts (Nur Dag near Yarpuz, Osmaniye Province) is the only true **Xenostrongylus** known to date from the Eastern Mediterranean areas.

#### **Meligethes acicularis** C. Brisout de Barneville, 1863

All distributional and ecological data on this species reported in Yıldırım et al., (1996) are to be referred to the unrelated **Meligethes diversus** Schilsky, 1893, as discussed below.

#### **Meligethes armeniacus** Audisio, Jelínek & Stevanovic, 1999

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, Akşar (Şenkaya), 1550 m, 26.VII.1994, İ. Aslan leg., 7 specimens (EMET); Kop Dag Pass, S slope (Erzurum), 2200 m, 9.VI.2001, L. Gültekin leg., 1 specimen (CAR); road from Horasan to Ağrı, cross-road to Tahir (Ağrı), 2080 m, 10.VI.2001, on **Cardaria** sp. (Brassicaceae), 39° 50.08 N/42° 25.18 E, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR); Kars (55 km before Kars), 2197 m, 12.VI.2001, on **Thlaspi** sp. (Brassicaceae), 40° 49.27 N/42° 51.40 E, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This recently described and rare species is known to date from eastern Turkey and Caucasian areas (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with **Thlaspi** spp. (Brassicaceae).

#### **Meligethes bidentatus** C. Brisout de Barneville, 1863

**Material Studied:** Ardahan, road from Akşar to Göle, 10 km before Göle, 1740 m, 9.VI.2001, on **Cardamine** sp. (Brassicaceae), 40° 43.28 N/32° 30.46 E, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR); Erzincan, Siralikonak (Kemaliye), 1250 m, 20.VI.1982, H. Özışık leg., 1 specimen (EMET); Erzurum, road from Oltu to Subatik, 1300 m, 20.V.2001, H. Özbek leg., 4 specimens (EMET); Erzurum, University Field, 1850 m, 4.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET); Kars, road from Sarıkamış to Karakurt, 1500 m, 24.V.2001, Ö. Çalmaşur leg., 3 specimens (EMET).

**Notes:** European species, only recently listed from eastern Turkey, Erzincan province (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with several Genisteae (Fabaceae).

***Meligethes biondii*** Audisio, 1988

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, road from Tortum to Narman, Kireçli pas, 2400 m, 40° 21.00 N/41° 41.72 E, 9.VI.2001, on ***Salvia staminea*** Montbret & Aucher (Lamiaceae), G. Antonini leg, 2 specimens (CAR).

**Notes:** This extremely rare and local species was known to date from a single locality in the Ağrı province (Tahir pass: Audisio, 1988, 1993). The above reported second Turkish locality markedly extends northwards the geographical distribution of this species; larval stages associated with ***Salvia staminea*** Montbret & Aucher (Lamiaceae).

***Meligethes brachialis*** Reitter, 1896

**Material Studied:** Kars, road from Sarıkamış to Karakurt, 1500 m, 24.V.2001, Ö. Çalmaşur leg., 2 specimens (EMET, CAR).

**Notes:** Rare Euro-Caucasian species (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with ***Coronilla*** spp. (Fabaceae).

***Meligethes carinulatus*** Förster, 1849

**Material Studied:** Artvin, Ormanlı, 12.V.2000, İ. Aslan leg., 2 specimens (EMET); Erzurum, 11.VI.1980, 1850 m, H. Özışık leg., 4 specimens (EMET); Söğütlü (Erzurum), 1800 m, 12.VIII.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 2 specimens (EMET).

***Meligethes* sp. cfr. *coracinus***

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, road from Akşar to Şenkaya (1 km before Şenkaya), 1880 m, 40° 34.55 N/42° 20.82 E, 9.VI.2001, sweeping, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR); road from Elazığ to Bingöl, 3.5 km before Kuruca pass (Bingöl), 1673 m, 38° 55.25 N/40° 11.81 E, 7.VI.2001, on ***Erysimum*** sp. (Brassicaceae), G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This rare species was first cited under ***Meligethes*** sp. 2 cfr. ***coracinus*** by Audisio et al. (2000, 2001a), based on material collected in a single locality near Sivas. The description of this taxon, probably endemic to eastern Turkey, and associated at larval stage with ***Arabis*** spp. (Brassicaceae), will be included in a next paper dealing with the taxonomical revision of the ***Meligethes coracinus*** species-complex (Audisio et al., in prep.).

***Meligethes distinctus*** Strum, 1845

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, 1850 m, 16.VIII.1979, H. Özışık leg., 3 specimens (EMET).

***Meligethes diversus*** Schilsky, 1893

**Material Studied:** 20.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 40 specimens (EMET, CAR); 20.VI.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 30 specimens; 25.VI.1993, İ. Aslan leg, 20 specimens (EMET, CAR); Demirözü, 1600 m, 23.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 9 specimens (EMET,

CAR); 29.VI.1993, İ. Aslan leg., Dutçu, 1950 m, 20.VI.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 10 specimens (EMET); Bayburt, Aydintepe, 1500 m, 30.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 8 specimens (EMET); Erzincan, Bahçe Kültürleri Araştırma Enstitüsü, 1200 m, 4.VII.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 14 specimens (EMET, CAR); Artvin, Sarıgöl (Yusufeli), 6.VII.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 5 specimens (EMET); Altıparmak (Yusufeli), 6.VII.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET); 9.VII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 30 specimens (EMET, CAR); Kopdağı, 10.VII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 10 specimens (EMET, CAR); Erzurum, University Field, 1850 m, 20 specimens (EMET, CAR); Bayburt, 11.VII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 10 specimens (EMET, CAR); Süngübeyir (Olur), 1800 m, 26.VII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 18 specimens (EMET, CAR); 10.VIII.1992, İ. Aslan, leg., 17 specimens (EMET, CAR); 17.VIII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 15 specimens (EMET).

**Notes:** As mentioned above, the adult host-plant relationships given by Yıldırım et al. (1996) between their "*M. acicularis*" and *Onobrychis viciifolia* (Fabaceae) are now to be transferred to *M. diversus*, known to occur from eastern Turkey to Middle Asia (Audisio, 1993; Kirejtshuk, 1997; Audisio et al., 2000). The larval host-plant of the rather isolated *M. diversus* was so far unknown (Audisio, 1993); we have now determined that also the larval stages of *M. diversus* feed on the buds of *O. viciifolia* and both larvae and adults gave severe damages to the host plant, particularly in the field of University, Erzurum (althouh showing sporadic distribution in *O. viciifolia* fields). *Meligethes diversus* usually appears in eastern Turkey at the beginning of June, mainly in cultivated meadows, damaging the flower buds of its host-plant, *Onobrychis sativa*, when occasionally the beetle abudance is locally high (Yıldırım et al., 1996).

The general aspect of *M. diversus*, including the shape of front tibiae and of the male genitalia, suggested a long-time accepted belief (Easton, 1964; Audisio, 1988, 1993) that this taxon could be included in, or very closely related to, the *Meligethes assimilis* Sturm species-group, comprising species all strictly associated with Lamiaceae at larval stages. In addition, a few adults of this species were occasionally collected in eastern Turkey near the Lake Van on a *Salvia* sp. cfr. *limbata* (Lamiaceae) (Audisio, 1993).

Under the new evidence given by Yıldırım et al. (1996), the taxonomic position of *M. diversus* must necessarily change radically; this species, resulting associated with Fabaceae, turns up definitely as a member of the *M. nigrescens* species-group, very likely not distantly related to *M. nigrescens* Stephens, 1830, a very common and widely distributed Holarctic species, to *M. ciliatus* Easton, 1956, a rare North-African endemic (at larval stage both strictly associated with other herbaceous Fabaceae: Audisio, 1993), and to a few other species from Middle Asia and the Himalayan Mts.

#### *Meligethes erysimicola* Audisio & De Biase, 2001

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, Pasinler, 1600 m, 11.VIII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET).

**Notes:** This species, only recently identified within the difficult *Meligethes coracinus* species-complex (Audisio et al., 2001a), has a wide south-European

and Anatolian geographic distribution (Audisio et al., 2000, under *Meligethes* sp. 1 cfr. *coracinus*); larval stages strictly associated with *Erysimum* spp. (Brassicaceae).

***Meligethes hladili*** Jelínek, 1982

**Material Studied:** Bayburt, Kop Dag pass, N slope, 2200 m, 21.VI.2001, L. Gültekin leg., 2 specimens (CAR); Erzurum, Çat, 1879 m, 39° 36.17 N/40° 58.46 E, 8.VI.2001, on *Hesperis* sp. (Brassicaceae), G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR); Kahramanmaraş, road from Sarız to Göksun, 4 km W of Mehmetbey, 1600 m, 23.V.2001, E. Colonelli leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This recently described and rare species is known to date from eastern Turkey, Syria and Caucasian areas (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with *Teucrium* spp. (Lamiaceae).

***Meligethes incanus*** Sturm, 1845

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, İspir, 1300 m, 6.VII.1980, H. Özışık leg., 2 specimens; Süngübayır (Olur), 20.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET); Pasinler, 1600 m, 11.VIII.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET); Dutçu, 1900 m, 20.VI.1993, İ. Aslan leg., 3 specimens (EMET); Narman, 1400 m, 8.VIII.1980, H. Özışık leg., 2 specimens (EMET).

***Meligethes jordanis*** Jelínek & Spornraft, 1979

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, Ormanlı (Şenkaya), 1350 m, 20.V.1994, E. Yıldırım leg., 2 specimens (EMET).

***Meligethes klinzoriani*** Kirejtshuk, 1979

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, road from Akşar to Şenkaya (4.3 km before Şenkaya), 1754 m, 40° 35.78 N/42° 20.92 E, 9.VI.2001, on *Hesperis* sp. / Brassicaceae, G. Antonini leg., 2 specimens (CAR); road from Akşar to Şenkaya (1 km before Şenkaya), 1880 m, 40° 34.55 N/42° 20.82 E, 9.VI.2001, sweeping, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This recently described and rare species is known to date from Turkey and Caucasian areas (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with *Salvia staminea* Montbret & Aucher (Lamiaceae).

***Meligethes longulus*** Schilsky, 1984

**Material Studied:** Bayburt, Aydintepe, 1500 m, 30.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 5 specimens (EMET, CAR); Demirözü, 1600 m, 23.VI.1992, İ. Aslan leg., 2 specimens (EMET); 31 km S of Bayburt, 1750 m, 12.VI.2001, on *Tchihatchewia isatidea* Boiss. (Brassicaceae), B. Korotyaev leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This rare and little-known species, frequently confused with other members of the *Meligethes coracinus* Sturm species -complex (Audisio et al., 2001a), was known to occur from the Erzincan, Erzurum, Sivas and Tunceli provinces (Audisio et al., 2000). Larval stages on *Tchihatchewia isatidea* Boiss. (Brassicaceae).

***Meligethes medvedevi*** Kirejtshuk, 1978

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, road from Karlıova to Çat, 80 km SW of Erzurum, 2100 m,  $39^{\circ} 28.10' N / 41^{\circ} 03.23' E$ , 8.VI.2001, on *Lamium album* L. (Lamiaceae), G. Antonini leg., 2 specimens (CAR).

**Notes:** This rare species was known to date only from SW Russia (Circassia) and Georgia (Kirejtshuk, 1978; Audisio et al., 2000); new species for the Turkish fauna. Caucasian specimens were collected on *Stachys macrantha* (C. Koch) and on *Lamium album* L. (Lamiaceae) (Kirejtshuk, 1978); the new Turkish data seem to support the possibility that larval stages of this species develop on *Lamium album* L.

***Meligethes mithra*** Jelínek, 1978

**Material Studied:** Hatay, 5 km S of Belen (İskenderun), 397 m,  $36^{\circ} 29.88' N / 36^{\circ} 10.30' E$ , 5.VI.2001, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR); Nevşehir, 10 km N of Gülvəhir, 910 m,  $38^{\circ} 45.96' N / 34^{\circ} 35.93' E$ , 2.VI.2001, on *Matthiola* sp. (Brassicaceae), G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** This recently described and uncommon species is known to date from Turkey, Jordan and Israel (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages especially (or may be exclusively) associated with *Matthiola* spp. (Brassicaceae).

***Meligethes pectinatus*** Schilsky, 1894

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, 18.VII.1979, H. Özışık leg., 3 specimens (EMET); Kop Dag pass above Aşkale, 1750 m, 29.V.2001, M. Volkovitsh leg., 1 specimen (CAR); 25-30 km E-NE of Horasan, 1500-1600 m, 1.VI.2001, M. Volkovitsh leg., 1 specimen; Kahramanmaraş, road from Sarız to Göksun, 4 km W of Mehmetbey, 1600 m, 23.V.2001, E. Colonnelli leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** Rare species, known to occur in Caucasian areas and in north-eastern Turkey, westwards to the Ankara province (Audisio et al., 2000); the above listed locality near Göksun is the southernmost of its known geographic distribution. Larval stages on *Onosma* spp. (Boraginaceae).

***Meligethes punctatissimus*** Reitter, 1896

**Material Studied:** Erzincan, Kemah, 1250 m, 25.V.2001, H. Özbek leg., 4 specimens (EMET, CAR).

**Notes:** Rare eastern Anatolian-Caucasian species (Audisio et al., 2000); larval stages associated with *Anchusa italicica* Retz. (Boraginaceae).

***Meligethes saxatilis*** Audisio, 1988

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, 5 km E-NE of Aşkale, 1717 m,  $39^{\circ} 56.69' N / 40^{\circ} 45.72' E$ , 10.VI.2001, G. Antonini leg., 1 specimen (CAR).

**Notes:** Uncommon species, known to occur in eastern Turkey, southwards and westwards to the Adana province (Audisio et al., 2000). Larval stages on *Stachys* spp. (Lamiaceae).

***Meligethes subrugosus*** (Gyllenhal, 1808)

**Material Studied:** Erzurum, Madenköprübaşı (İspir), 1100 m, 18.VI.1994, İ. Aslan leg., 2 specimens (EMET).

***Meligethes sulcatus*** C. Brisout de Barneville, 1863

**Material Studied:** Osmaniye, Nur Mts above Zorkun, 1600 m, 29.V.2001, G. Gobbi leg., 2 specimens (CAR).

**Notes:** Uncommon species, known to occur from northern Spain to Middle Asia (Audisio, 1993), in Turkey known from the northern and south-western provinces (Audisio et al., 2000). Larval stages on ***Lamium*** spp. (Lamiaceae).

***Meligethes wittmeri*** Jelínek & Audisio, 1977

**Material Studied:** Bayburt (31 km South of Bayburt), 12.VI.2001, B. Korotyaev leg., 2 specimens (CAR), Erzurum, Çat, 1879 m, 39° 36.17 N/40° 58.46 E, 8.VI.2001, on ***Hesperis*** sp. (Brassicaceae), G. Antonini leg., 3 specimens (CAR); 5 km E-NE to Aşkale, 1717 m, 39° 56.69 N/40° 45.72 E, 10.VI.2001, on ***Hesperis*** sp. (Brassicaceae), G. Antonini leg., 10 specimens (CAR).

**Notes:** This relatively recently described and very rare species is known to date only from a few localities in eastern Turkey and Armenia (Jelinek, 1982; Audisio et al., 2000). The larval stages of this species, as very recently discovered, are exclusively associated with ***Hesperis*** spp. (Brassicaceae), especially ***H. bicuspidata*** (Willd.) Poiret. These biological data are particularly interesting, when linked to the parallel discovery (Audisio, unpublished) of ***Matthiola*** spp. (Brassicaceae) as probably being the larval host plants of the exceptionally rare ***Meligethes coeruleescens*** Kraatz, 1858 (endemic to Greece, and representing the sister-species of ***M. wittmeri***: Jelinek & Audisio, 1977). In fact, the genera ***Hesperis*** and ***Matthiola*** are very closely related, and sister-groups in a phylogenetic perspective (Moggi, 1965). Within the ***Meligethes coeruleescens*** species-complex, only the larval ecology of the rare ***M. tener*** Reitter was known to date (associated with ***Alyssum*** spp., Brassicaceae: Jelinek and Audisio, 1977; Audisio, 1993).

**Kateretidae**

***Brachypterus urticae*** (Fabricius, 1792)

**Material Studied:** Osmaniye, Nur Mts above Zorkun, 1600 m, 29.V.2001, G. Gobbi leg., 2 specimens (CAR).

**Notes:** Very common and widespread Holarctic species, in Turkey previously known to occur from western and northern provinces only.

**Özet**

**Türkiye'deki bazı Nitidulidae ve Kateretidae (Coleoptera) türlerinin dağılışları  
ve konukçuları**

Polen böcekleri olarak bilinen Nitidulidae ve Kataretidae familyalarına giren bazı türlerin dağılışları ve konukçularının tespitiin amaçlandığı bu çalışmada; Kafkasya bölgesi için endemik olan ve sadece Güney Batı Rusya ve Gürcistan'da bulunduğu belirtilen

**Meligethes medvedevi** Kirejtshuk, ilk defa Erzurum'dan tespit edilmiştir. Türkiye için endemik olan **Meligethes biondii** Audisio'nun tip lokalitesi Ağrı iken Erzurum'da da bulunduğu belirlenmiştir. **Meligethes wittmeri** Jelinek&Audisio, **M. pectinatus** Schilsky ve **M. diversus** Schilsky gibi az bilinen türler için yeni lokaliteler ve larva konukçuları belirlenmiştir. Özellikle **M. diversus**'un larvalarının korunganın çiçek tomurcuklarının içinde beslendiği saptanmış, ergin ve larvaların bu bitkinin önemli zararlı olduğu tespit edilmiştir.

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