

RESEARCH PAPER

Four new species of the genus *Ceutorhynchus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) from the western Palaearctic

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Abstract. Four new species close to the *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (Paykull, 1792) species group are described here: *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. nov. from Armenia lives on *Alyssum* (Brassicaceae), and is most similar to the West Palaearctic *C. griseus* C. Brisout de Barneville, 1869 and to *C. montanus* Colonnelli, 1997 from the Balkans. *Ceutorhynchus crassulicola* sp. nov. from the Canary Islands is related to the Palaearctic *C. assimilis* and the Central Asian *C. confusus* A. Schultze, 1903. *Ceutorhynchus davidorum* sp. nov. from Greece lives on *Alyssum*, is related to the West Palaearctic *C. griseus* and is also somewhat similar to the East European *C. nigritulus* A. Schultze, 1897. *Ceutorhynchus dobrogeaensis* sp. nov. from Romania lives on *Lepidium perfoliatum* (Brassicaceae), and is related to the East European and Central Asian *C. difficilis* A. Schultze, 1898 and to the Palaearctic *C. assimilis*.

Key words. Curculionidae, Conoderinae, Ceutorhynchitae, bionomics, new species, taxonomy, Armenia, Canary Islands, Greece, Romania

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Introduction

The species group of *Ceutorhynchus assimilis* (Paykull, 1792) was defined by KOROTYAEV (1980) as *C. pleurostigma* (Marsham, 1802) group and until today consists of 26 species from the Palaearctic Region and one from southern Africa (COLONNELLI 2011). It forms one of the largest species groups within *Ceutorhynchus* Germar, 1823, genus including about described 400 species and distributed primarily in the Holarctic Region and Africa (COLONNELLI 2004).

All *Ceutorhynchus* species for which the host plant is known develop and live on plants of the families Brassicaceae, Resedaceae and exceptionally also on Linaceae (COLONNELLI 2004). Larvae of the species included in the *C. assimilis* group usually form typical tubercles on the lower part of the stem or on the root of the host plant. Adults of several species move to the upper parts of the plants only very rarely, usually remaining on the soil and feeding on the lowermost leaves. Therefore, it is sometimes not easy to find them by the usual collecting methods, since they require targeted searching under the plants or to be reared of them. In addition, several species of the *C. assimilis* group are rarely collected, since many of them occur outside the main seasonal period of sampling in spring and early summer.

Materials and methods

Measurements of the specimens were taken as follows: body length (from the base of the rostrum to the apex of the elytra); rostral length (a straight line going from the base of the curved rostrum to the rostral apex); pronotal length (from the anterior margin of the pronotum to the tip of its base in front of the scutellum); elytral length (from the middle of a line tangent to the shoulders to the elytral apex). Measurements were taken using a Novex RZ trinocular microscope with the original scale.

Images of adults were taken using a Canon 60 EOS camera with a Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1–5× Macro lens, then stacked using Helicon Focus software. Images of genitalia were taken using the same camera and lens or using a Keyence VHX-7100 Digital Microscope Kit. Images of the localities were taken using a Canon 60 EOS camera with a Canon EF 24–105mm f/4.0 L IS USM lens. Unless otherwise stated, images were made by the author.

Aedeagus or spermatheca, if dissected, were glued using DMHF hydantoin to the same card as the specimen.

Labels borne by specimens are reported in quotation marks using the original spelling as written on the labels. Separate lines on the same label are indicated by a semicolon; additional comments and explanations are given in square brackets. Taxonomy primarily follows ALONSO-ZARAZAGA et al. (2023).



Abbreviations of the type depositories:

ECPC	Enzo Colonnelli's private collection, Rome, Italy;
JKPC	Jiří Krátký's private collection, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic;
JPPC	Jan Pelikán's private collection, Hradec Králové, Czech Republic;
MKPC	Mark Kalashian's private collection, Yerevan, Armenia;
NMPC	National Museum of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic;
PKPC	Petr Kresl's private collection, Spůle, Czech Republic;
RGPC	Rafael García's private collection, Santa Cruz de La Palma, Canary Islands, Spain;
RSPC	Richard Škoda's private collection, Liberec, Czech Republic;
TFCM	Museum of Nature and Archeology, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain;
ZIN	Russian Academy of Sciences, Zoological Institute, Sankt Petersburg, Russia.

Taxonomy

Ceutorhynchus armeniacus sp. nov.

(Figs 1–2, 5–6)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (dissected) with the following labels: "Armenia [Gegharkunik prov.], Sevan Pass; NW of Semyonovka; 40°39'53"N, 44°53'17"E [2100 m]; lgt. J. Krátký 9.6.2017" [printed], "*Alyssum*; cf. *muelleri*.; Boiss. & Buhse; beating, 16:00 H" [printed, black lettering on green background, reverse side white], "HOLOTYPE; *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2023" [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (NMPC). PARATYPES: 3 ♂♂ 11 ♀♀, same collecting data as the holotype, and with the label "PARATYPUS; *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2023" [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (ECPC, JKPC, MKPC, ZIN).

Description. Male (holotype, Fig. 1). Body length: 1.95 mm.

Integument and vestiture. Body completely black, shiny, only lower anterior margin of pronotum, extreme apex of rostrum, antennal funicle, apical part of tarsal segment 3 and tarsal claws brownish. Dorsal vestiture consisting of semi-erect white hair-like scales distributed in 1–2 regular rows on elytral intervals and distributed separately in each puncture of pronotum and head and on legs. Shorter lanceolate white scales are sparse on ventral side, denser on mesosternum, mesepimera and apical margins of ventrites. One row of same scales at base of pronotum.

Head. Rostrum 1.24× as long as pronotum, in lateral view regularly curved towards apex; in dorsal view parallel-sided, sparsely punctured and with 3 carinae from base to antennal insertion, from here to apex finely but regularly punctured, smooth and shiny. Antennae inserted in middle of length of rostrum; scape almost straight, moderately clubbed in apical 1/5; funicle 7-segmented, its segment 1 elongate and clubbed, 2 cylindrical, about 3/4 as long as segment 1, segments 3 and 4 cylindrical, about 1/2 as long as segment 1, segments 5–7 shortening to distal one which is almost sphaerical; club long-fusiform, 2.3× as long as wide in middle, about 1/3 of funicle length. Frons with coarse punctures approximately half as large as those on pronotum; eyes in dorsal view slightly rounded, not strongly protruding from outline of head, almost round in lateral view, moderately convex anteriorly.

Pronotum 0.74× as long as wide, widest in approxi-

mately 1/3 of length, sides regularly rounded in basal 2/3, from there almost straight, narrowing towards apex, apical margin moderately raised; base protruding towards scutellum in middle; disc regularly coarsely punctured, with strong antero-lateral impressions, dorsal sulcus only indicated on basal part of pronotum; lateral tubercles in form of short sharp ledges.

Elytra 1.31× as long as wide, widest at humeri, sides almost straight, regularly tapering apically from humeral calli to preapical tubercles on intervals 4–8, apex of each elytron regularly rounded. Striae not very deep, with sharp edges and regular rows of white scales. Interstriae about twice as wide as striae, flat, with 1–2 irregular rows of small punctures, interspaces finely rugose.

Legs of normal length, not robust or elongated. Middle and posterior femora dentate in approximately 2/3 of lower margin length, teeth low and blunt. Anterior femora only clubbed in middle, edentate. Tibiae almost straight, moderately widened at apex, middle and posterior with small sharp mucro directed inwards at apex of inner margin. Tarsi 0.8× as long as tibiae, claws minutely dentate.

Abdomen. Ventrites flat, ventrite 5 with shallow preapical impression. Aedeagus subrectangular, widened apically, apical margin almost straight, very indistinctly emarginate in middle (Fig. 5).

Female (Fig. 2). Very similar to male, rostrum longer than in male, 1.45× as long as pronotum, antennae inserted closer to its base; elytra broader and more rounded on sides, 1.2× as long as wide; middle and hind tibiae without mucro; ventrite 5 without preapical impression. Spermatheca and ovipositor as in Fig. 6.

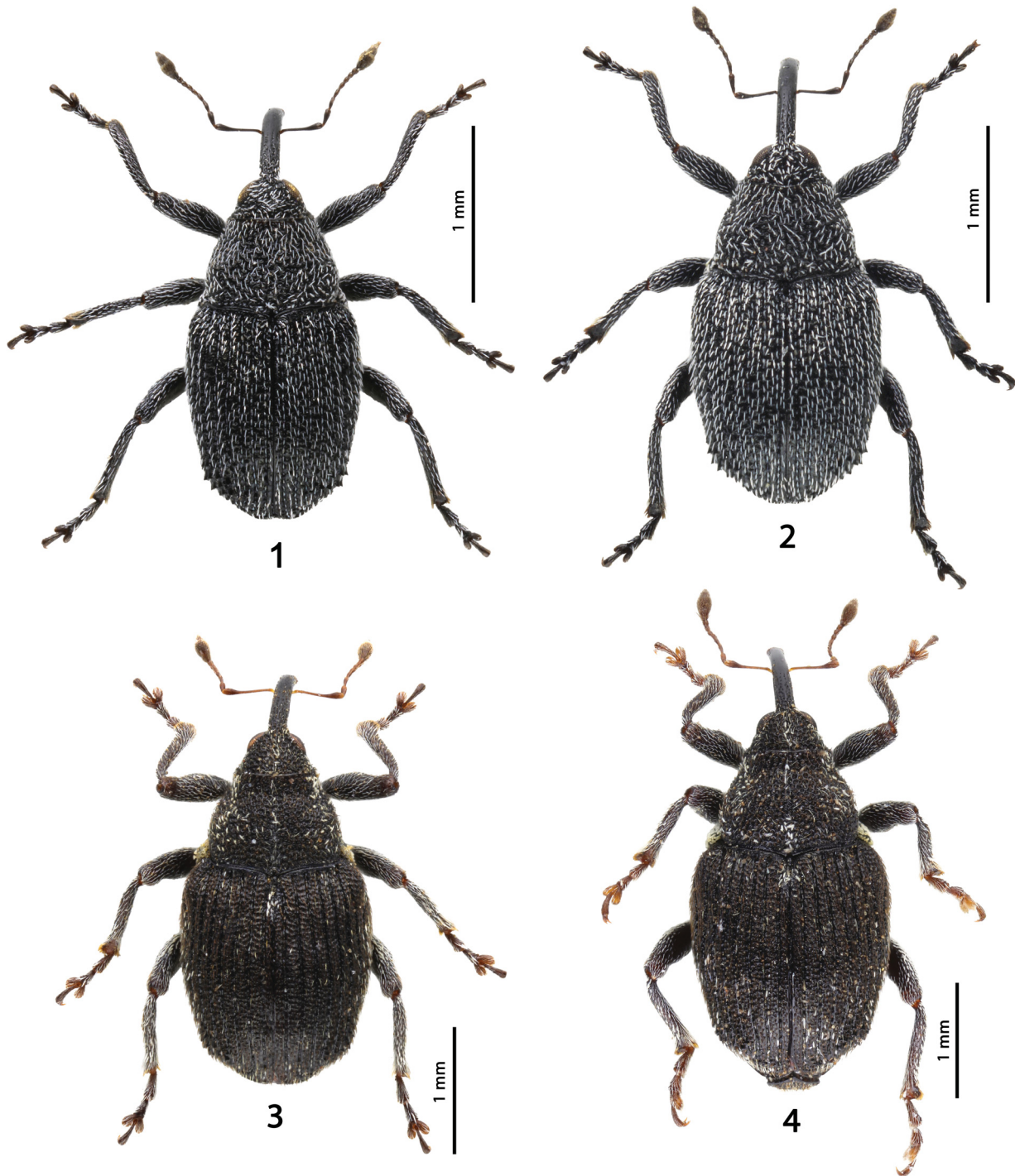
Variability. Body length 1.55–2.10 mm. The specimens of the type series do not show any other variability.

Differential diagnosis. Among *Ceutorhynchus* of the *C. assimilis* group, the new species most closely resembles in body shape, dorsal vestiture and coloration *C. griseus* C. Brisout de Barneville, 1869 from Europe and western Asia, which however, together with *C. montanus* Colonnelli, 1997 from the Balkans, has pronotum trapezoid and widest near the base (instead of pronotum with rounded sides and widest in the basal 1/3 as in *C. armeniacus*), larger body (1.90–2.40 mm instead of 1.55–2.10 mm as in *C. armeniacus*) and aedeagus with rounded sides (instead of straight sides as in *C. armeniacus*). Some species of the *Ceutorhynchus nanus* Gyllenhal, 1837 group are also quite similar to the new one, but *C. armeniacus* is immediately separated from it by the rostrum lacking scales on the basal half (scaled more or less densely from the base to at least one quarter of its length in all species of the *C. nanus* group).

Etymology. The species epithet is the Latin adjective *armeniacus* (-a, -um) given after Armenia, the country of its origin.

Bionomics. All specimens of the type series were beaten from *Alyssum* cf. *muelleri* Boiss. & Buhse (Brassicaceae) (Fig. 8), growing on a steep clay slope close to Sevan-Pass in northeastern Armenia (Fig. 9). It is very likely that the plant is the true host of the new species.

Distribution. Armenia.



Figs 1–4. 1–2 – habitus of *Ceutorhynchus armeniicus* sp. nov.: 1 – male holotype; 2 – female paratype; 3–4 – habitus of *Ceutorhynchus crassulicola* sp. nov.: 3 – male holotype; 4 – female paratype.

***Ceutorhynchus crassulicola* sp. nov.**

(Figs 3–4, 7)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (dissected) labelled: “[Spain, Canary Islands] La Palma; Marcos y Cordero; 26/7/1997; [igt.] Rafael G. B. [= García Becerra]” [handwritten and printed], “*Ceutorhynchus; crassulicola* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2021” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (RGPC, to be deposited in TFCM). PARATYPES: 1 ♂ 1 ♀, same data as in holotype, except for “PARATYPUS; *Ceutorhynchus; crassulicola* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2023” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (JKPC, RGPC).

Description. *Male* (holotype, Fig. 3). Body length: 2.85 mm.
Integument and vestiture. Body completely black with slight bronze lustre, only lower anterior margin of

pronotum, extreme apex of rostrum, antennae and tarsi yellow-brown, tarsal segment 3 and claws paler, yellowish. Dorsal vestiture consisting of semi-erect brown hair-like scales sparsely distributed in 2–3 irregular rows on elytral intervals; hair-like as well as lanceolate white scales are sparsely inmixed, forming indistinct postscutellar sutural spot and are also denser on lateral intervals and on apex of elytra and on middle and dorsolateral parts of pronotum and head. Similar white scales are also distributed on legs; lanceolate ones only on hind femora and tibiae. Elytral rows with very thin hairs of same colour as elytra, making rows appearing glabrous. Ventral side sparsely covered



Figs 5–7. Genitalia of *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. nov.: 5 – male holotype, aedeagus (ventral view); 6 – female paratype (6a – ovipositor, dorsal view; 6b – spermatheca, lateral view); 7 – *C. crassulicola* sp. nov., male holotype, aedeagus (ventral view). Photos by J. Pražák.

with oval white scales. Apex of mesepimeron densely clothed with yellow lanceolate scales forming distinct spots visible also in dorsal view.

Head. Rostrum $1.22\times$ as long as pronotum, in lateral view regularly curved to apex, in dorsal view parallel-sided, coarsely punctured and rugose on basal half, apical half shiny, sparsely and finely punctured. Antennae inserted a little apicad of midlength of rostrum; scape nearly straight, clubbed in apical 1/4; funicle 7-segmented, its segments 1 and 2 subconical and of same length, segments 3–7 cylindrical, shortening apically; club broadly fusiform, twice as long as wide in middle, about 1/3 of funicle length. Frons identically coarsely punctured as pronotum; eyes in dorsal view slightly rounded, not strongly protruding from head outline, in lateral view suboval, expanded anteriorly.

Pronotum $0.84\times$ as long as wide, widest approximately in basal third, narrowed towards apex, sides regularly rounded, apical margin flat in lateral view; base protruding towards scutellum in middle; disc regularly coarsely punctured, with indistinct shallow antero-lateral impressions, lateral tubercles very small, apparently absent.

Elytra $1.11\times$ as long as wide, widest in basal 1/4, slightly convex in both directions, sides narrowing apically, regularly moderately rounded from humeral calli to preapical tubercles on intervals 4–7, apex of each elytron regularly rounded. Striae shallow, with sharp edges. Interstriae 3–4 \times as wide as striae, flat, transversally rugose.

Legs of normal length, not robust or elongate. Femora dentate in 2/3 of lower margin length, middle and posterior ones with small sharp teeth highlighted by spot of erect whitish hairs, anterior ones with very small and hardly visible teeth. Tibiae straight, slightly widening towards apex. All tibiae expanded at apex; middle and posterior ones with sharp mucro at apex of inner margin. Tarsi $0.8\times$ as long as tibiae, claws distinctly dentate.

Abdomen. Ventrites flat, ventrite 5 with shallow round preapical impression. Aedeagus subrectangular, slightly widened apically (Fig. 7).

Female (Fig. 4). Very similar to male, rostrum $1.23\times$ as long as pronotum, coarsely punctured on basal 1/5, apical 4/5 strongly shining and very sparsely punctured, apex very indistinctly widened; antennae inserted at midlength of rostrum; middle and posterior tibiae without mucro; ventrite 5 without impression.

Variability. Body length 2.8–2.9 mm. The specimens of the type series do not show any other variability.

Differential diagnosis. In body shape, coloration and dorsal vestiture, the new species most closely resembles *C. confusus* A. Schultz, 1903 from Central Asia, species differing mainly in untoothed tarsal claws (distinctly toothed in *C. crassulicola*) and strongly different shape of the aedeagus with pointed and truncated apex (subrectangular in *C. crassulicola*). Also, several species close to *C. assimilis* are similar in body shape and coloration, but *C. crassulicola* differs from all of them in the lack of white scales in the elytral rows. In addition, yellow-brown antennae combined with black legs in *C. crassulicola* are not present in any of the species of this group.

Etymology. The new species is named after the plants of the family Crassulaceae on which all the above-mentioned specimens were found; its name is a noun coming from Latin and meaning “inhabitant of *Crassula*”.

Bionomics. All specimens of the type series were found on an unidentified species of the genus *Aichryson* Webb & Berthel. (Crassulaceae), which is certainly not its true host plant but must be considered a refuge plant in the meaning of COLONNELLI & OSELLA (1998). The occasional collecting of *Ceutorhynchus* on Crassulaceae in the Canary Islands has already been observed, since the first found specimens of the recently described *C. paroliniae* Krátký, 2016 from Gran Canaria were found sitting almost exclusively on the leaves of *Aeonium percarneum* (Murray) Pit. & Proust.; however, after a targeted search on the plants of the family Brassicaceae growing there, *Parolinia platypetala* G. Kunkel was found as being its true host plant (KRÁTKÝ 2016). A thorough search of Brassicaceae at the locus typicus of the new species described here by the type collector and myself was unsuccessful.

Distribution. *Ceutorhynchus crassulicola* sp. nov. is known only from the type locality on the island of La Palma (Spain, Canary Islands).



Fig. 8. *Alyssum* cf. *muelleri* Boiss. & Buhse, the host plant of *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. nov.



Fig. 9. Landscape near Sevan Pass, Armenia, the type locality of *Ceutorhynchus armeniacus* sp. nov.

***Ceutorhynchus davidorum* sp. nov.**

(Figs 10–11, 14)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (dissected) with the labels: “Greece, Thessalia, 1050 m; Ossa Mts., W of Karitsa; N 39°50.058', E 22°41.081'”; lgt. J. Krátký 5.6.2011” [printed], “HOLOTYPE; *Ceutorhynchus*; *DAVIDORUM* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2023” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (NMPC). PARATYPES: 3 ♂♂ 5 ♀♀, same data as in holotype (JKPC, ZIN); 1 ♂, “Greece – Larissa pr.; Mt. Ossa; 4.-6.6.2012; lgt. Jan Pelikán”, “39°50.059'N 1050 m; 22°41.078'E rocks; mountain meadows; beating, sliding” (JPPC); 6 ♂♂ 1 ♀, “Greece 4.-6. VI.2012; Mt. Ossa 740-1500 m; Chomatodromos; lgt. Richard Škoda” (RSPC, ECPC), all with “PARATYPUS; *Ceutorhynchus*; *DAVIDORUM* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2023” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white].

Description. Male (holotype, Fig. 10). Body length: 2.0 mm.

Integument and vestiture. Body completely black, shiny, only lower anterior margin of pronotum brownish. Dorsal vestiture consisting of semi-erect white hair-like scales distributed in 1–2 regular rows on elytral intervals and separately distributed in each puncture of pronotum and head where they are shortened apically on frons. Shorter and broader appressed white scales are sparsely distributed on ventral side and legs, slightly denser only on apex of mesepimeron. Same short oval scales form very small spot on basal part of pronotal median sulcus.

Head. Rostrum 1.25× as long as pronotum, in lateral view moderately and regularly curved to approximately 3/4 of length, beyond here almost straight towards apex; in dorsal view rostrum parallel-sided, moderately punctured and with three carinae on basal 1/3, all disappearing towards apex, apical 2/3 smooth and strongly shiny, very sparsely and finely punctured. Antennae inserted a little before midlength of rostrum; scape nearly straight, apical 1/5 clubbed; funicle 7-segmented, segment 1 elongate and clubbed, 2 subconical, about 3/4 as long as segment 1, segments 3–6 gradually shortened as 7 being almost rounded and wider than long; club broadly fusiform, 1.6× as long as wide in middle, about 1/3 as long as funicle. Frons identically coarsely punctured as pronotum; eyes in dorsal view distinctly rounded, slightly protruding from outline of head, in lateral view suboval, expanded anteriorly.

Pronotum 0.74× as long as wide, widest approximately in middle, sides slightly rounded in basal half, from middle almost straight, narrowing towards apex, apical margin only very indistinctly raised; base protruding towards scutellum in middle; disc regularly coarsely punctured, with strong antero-lateral impressions, dorsal sulcus barely visible on basal part of pronotum; lateral tubercles in form of sharp teeth.

Elytra 1.23× as long as wide, widest in basal third, sides almost straight, very slightly narrowing apically from humeral calli to preapical tubercles extending on intervals 3–8, apex of each elytron regularly rounded. Striae deep, with blunt edges, with regular rows of white scales same as those on ventral side. Interstriae 1.0–1.4× as wide as striae, flat, with 1–2 irregular rows of small punctures, interspaces finely rugose.

Legs short, tibiae shorter than femora. Femora clubbed in middle, edentate. Tibiae widened apically, straight, meso- and metatibiae with sharp obliquely inwards directed mucro at apex of inner margin. Tarsi 0.9× as long as tibiae,

claws distinctly dentate.

Abdomen. Ventrites flat, ventrite 5 with very shallow and indistinct longitudinal preapical impression bounded by very fine erect hairs. Aedeagus with subparallel sides, slightly widened apically, apex bilobed with two sharp apices with very deep U-shaped emargination in between, quite unusual in ceutorhynchines (Fig. 14).

Female (Fig. 11). Very similar to male, rostrum a little longer, 1.3× as long as pronotum, antennae inserted closer to its base; middle and posterior tibiae without mucro; ventrite 5 without longitudinal impression.

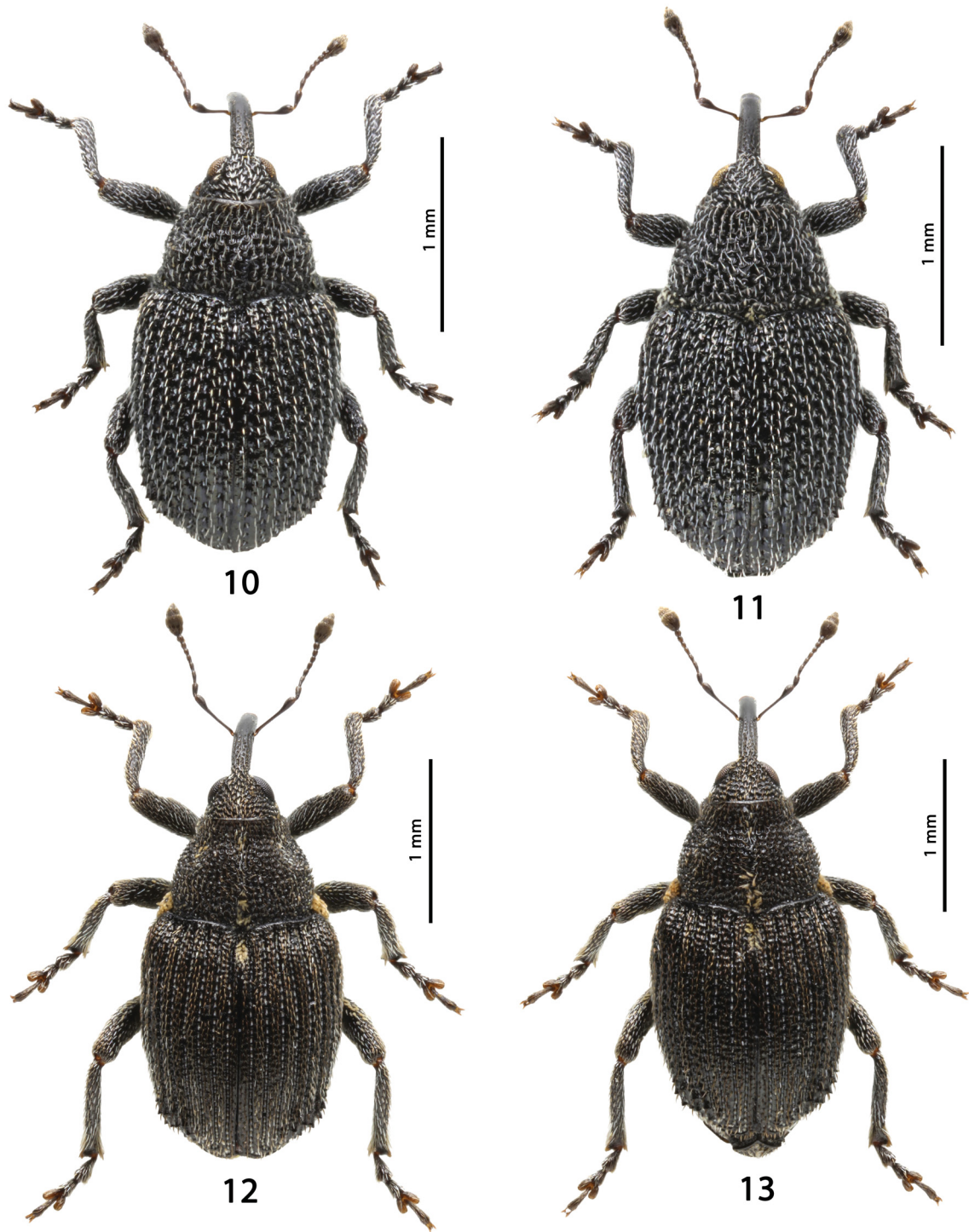
Variability. Body length 1.63–2.00 mm. The specimens of the type series do not show any other variability.

Differential diagnosis. The new species differs from all known *Ceutorhynchus* in the aedeagus having bilobed apex, a feature also shown for example in *Ptochus* Schoenherr, 1826 (Curculionidae: Entiminae) (ISMAILOVA 2006) or in *Cryptocephalus* (*Burlinius* Lopatin, 1965), a Chrysomelidae (DUAN & ZHOU 2021). In its general habitus, it is quite similar to *C. griseus*, but it is distinctly smaller, with subparallel elytra, shorter legs and shorter and always white semi-erect body pubescence (instead of apically narrowing elytra with rounded sides, longer legs and longer hairlike brown-whitish scales on elytra as in *C. griseus*). Also, the West Palaearctic *C. subpilosus* C. Brisout de Barneville, 1869 of the same species group is similar in body shape and coloration but lacks pronotal lateral tubercles (instead of bearing sharp and well developed pronotal tubercles as in *C. davidorum*). The close East European *C. nigrutilus* A. Schultze, 1897 has a similar habitus too, but differs in the absence of scales in the elytral rows (instead of obvious scales in the elytral rows as in *C. davidorum*). Another two species somewhat similar in body outline and form of legs are the European *C. posthumus* Germar, 1823 and the Transcaucasian *C. gemuricus* Korotyaev, 1997; however, these species readily differ in their 6-segmented antennal funicle (instead of the 7-segmented funicle of *C. davidorum*) as well as their usually brownish elytra (instead of the always black elytra as in *C. davidorum*). Finally, the western Palaearctic *C. atomus* Boheman, 1845 is also similar in body size and coloration, but differs strongly in the shape of the elytra and pronotum and in its white hairlike scales on elytra much longer and rectangularly erected (instead of these being shorter, broader and semi-erect as in *C. davidorum*).

Etymology. The new species is named in honour of the entomologist Ladislav David and his wife Iva from Hradec Králové, Czech Republic, who greatly helped me after a serious laboratory accident in November 2018. Noun in genitive plural standing in apposition.

Bionomics. All specimens of the type series were swept from an unidentified yellow flowering crucifer of the genus *Alyssum* (Brassicaceae) growing in rocky subalpine meadows on limestone above the village of Karitsa in the Ossa Mountains in central Greece (Fig. 16). However, it is uncertain whether the plant in question is the true host of the new species, given the presence of several plants of different genera of Brassicaceae at the collecting locality.

Distribution. Greece.



Figs 10–13. 10–11 – habitus of *Ceutorhynchus davidorum* sp. nov.: 10 – male holotype; 11 – female paratype; 12–13 – habitus of *Ceutorhynchus dobrogeaensis* sp. nov.: 12 – male holotype; 13 – female paratype.

***Ceutorhynchus dobrogeaensis* sp. nov.**

(Figs 12–13, 15)

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (dissected) labelled: “Romania, Dobrogea; Tulcea prov. Codru env.; 137 M; 44°49.192’N, 28°41.471’E; lgt. J. Krátký 5.5.2009” [printed], “*Lepidium perfoliatum*; L.; sweeping” [printed, black lettering on green background, reverse side white], “HOLOTYPE; *Ceutorhynchus DOBROGEAENSIS* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2025” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (NMPC). PARATYPES: 6 ♂♂ 5 ♀♀, same data as in holotype; 2 ♂♂ 4 ♀♀, same locality data as in holotype but lgt. P. Kresl (ECPC, JKPC, NMPC, PKPC, ZIN); 1 ♂, “Romania [Dobrogea, Constanța prov., Istria env.] 3.-4.VI.2008, Catatea

Histria; NR Grindul Saiele; lgt. R. Škoda”, all paratypes with “PARATYPE; *Ceutorhynchus DOBROGEAENSIS* sp. n.; J. Krátký des. 2025” [printed, black lettering on red background, reverse side white] (RSPC).

Description. Male (holotype, Fig. 12). Body length: 2.36 mm.

Integument and vestiture. Body completely black with indistinct bronze lustre, only lower anterior margin of pronotum, apical parts of third tarsal segment, tarsal claws and apex of rostrum paler, brownish to reddish. Dorsal vestiture consisting of semi-erect brown hair-like scales sparsely distributed in 2–3 irregular rows on elytral inter-



Figs 14–15. Ventral view of male genitalia (aedeagus) of *Ceutorhynchus* holotypes: 14 – *C. davidorum* sp. nov.; 15 – *C. dobrogeaensis* sp. nov. Photos by J. Pražák.

vals; similar white scales are inmixed on odd intervals, mainly on apical half. These scales are distributed also on legs, whitish ones in middle parts of femora and tibiae. Elytral striae with wider white scales in regular rows. Wider yellow-white scales form pale spots on pronotum on basal and apical part of dorsal sulcus, and on apical part are arranged in small longitudinal spots somewhat forming lateral lines; same scales form pale postscutellar spot on elytral sutural interval. Ventral side sparsely covered with oval yellow-white scales, denser on mesosternum. Apex of mesepimeron densely clothed by yellow lanceolate scales forming distinct spots visible also in dorsal view.

Head. Rostrum $0.9\times$ as long as pronotum, in lateral view moderately curved and slightly tapered towards apex, indistinctly angled at antennal insertion point; in dorsal view parallel-sided, punctured as coarsely as frons, with three irregular carinae in basal half, all disappearing apically, apical half shiny, sparsely and finely punctured. Antennae inserted little beyond middle of rostrum length; scape nearly straight, clubbed in apical $1/4$; funicle 7-segmented, its segment 1 elongate and clubbed, 2 subconical, as long as segment 1, segments 3 and 4 about twice as long as wide, 5–7 almost rounded; club broadly fusiform, $1.8\times$ as long as wide in middle, a little less than $1/3$ of funicle length of. Frons as coarsely punctured as pronotum; eyes in dorsal view slightly rounded, indistinctly protruding from head outline, in lateral view suboval, expanded anteriorly.

Pronotum as long as wide, widest approximately in middle, narrowed towards apex, sides regularly rounded, apical margin parallel in dorsal view and raised in lateral view; base protruding to scutellum in middle, disc regularly coarsely punctured, with antero-lateral impressions, dorsal sulcus shallow, deeper only basally and anteriorly, lateral tubercles prominent, in lateral view in form of short ridges.

Elytra $1.2\times$ as long as wide, widest in basal $1/5$, slightly convex in both directions, sides tapering apically, regularly moderately rounded from humeral calli to preapical tubercles situated on intervals 3–7, apex of each elytron regularly rounded. Striae deep, with sharp edges, with regular rows of whitish scales. Interstriae 3–4 \times as wide as striae, flat, corrugated transversally.

Legs of normal length, not robust or elongate. Femora dentate in middle of lower margin, middle and posterior ones with distinct sharp teeth, anterior with very small and hardly visible teeth enhanced by a few erect white scales. Tibiae widened apically, protibiae and metatibiae straight, mesotibiae slightly S-shaped. All tibiae expanded at apex, middle and posterior ones with small sharp inward directed mucro at apex of inner margin. Tarsi $0.8\times$ as long as tibiae, claws distinctly dentate.

Abdomen. Ventrites flat, ventrite 5 with shallow preapical impression, covered with broad white scales and with very fine erect brown hairs on lateral parts. These hairs are also present on disc of pygidium. Aedeagus subrectangular, slightly widened apically, with tapered anterior angles and V-shaped apical emargination (Fig. 15).

Female (Fig. 13). Very similar to male, rostrum a little longer, $0.96\times$ as long as pronotum, antennae inserted closer to its base; middle and posterior tibiae without mucro; ventrite 5 without preapical impression.

Variability. Body length 1.95–2.55 mm. The density of hairlike white scales on elytral intervals is variable from almost completely brown to alternating brownish-white striped specimens.

Differential diagnosis. The new species differs from all species of the *C. assimilis* group in the aedeagus with shallowly U-shaped emarginate apex (instead of rectangular, rounded or pointed apex as in all other species). In its general habitus, *Ceutorhynchus difficilis* A. Schultze, 1898 occurring from Eastern Europe to Central Asia is most similar to the new species. In addition to the significantly different shape of the aedeagus, *C. difficilis* differs in the absence of a postscutellar pale spot on the elytra (instead of presence of a distinct pale spot as in the new species), more rounded sides of the pronotum and white mesoepimeral spots (instead of yellow spots as in the new species). It is impossible to confuse the new species with others of the *C. assimilis* group, which have different coloration of the dorsal vestiture, legs or antennae, and/or lack mesoepimeral pale spots or lateral tubercles on pronotum, and/or have edentate tarsal claws.

Etymology. The new species is named after Dobrogea, a region in eastern Romania from where it is exclusively known to date. The species epithet is the Latinised adjective *dobrogeaensis* (-is, -e).

Bionomics. The specimens from Babadag were swept from the halophilic crucifer *Lepidium perfoliatum* L. growing along the semiruderal margin of a forest way in the foothills of the Babadag hills. The specimen from Istria was swept from the same plant growing on primary coastal salt marsh. It is very likely that the above plant is the true host of the new species.

Distribution. Romania.



Fig. 16. Rocky subalpine slope in the Ossa mountains, the type locality of *Ceutorhynchus davidorum* sp. nov.

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