

New Mordellidae (Coleoptera) from Greece and Tunisia

by

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ABSTRACT. — Two species of Mordellidae are described and illustrated viz *Mordellistena dentata* from Greece (Peloponesus) and *aypassai* from Tunisia.

During a foray in Greece I caught a new species of *Mordellistena*, and among the many *Mordellidae* Mr. D. Aypassa caught for me in Tunisia, there is also a new species of this genus. Both are described in this paper.

Both Mordellidae have the usual features of the genus *Mordellistena* Costa.

Mordellistena aypassai n.sp. (figs. 1, 2, 3)

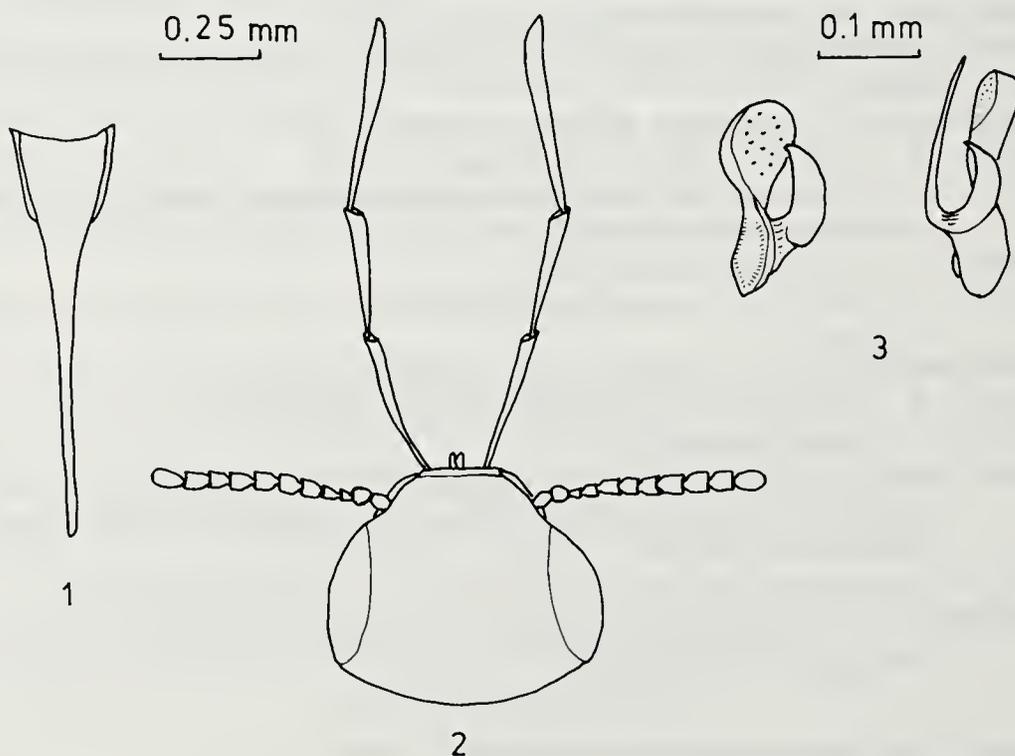
Description. — **Dimensions.** ♂: length of body 2.6-3.4 mm (without pygidium); length of elytra 1.7-2.2 mm, width at shoulders 0.65-0.9 mm; pygidium 1.0-1.4 mm; fifth sternite 0.3-0.4 mm. ♀: length of body 2.9-3.8 mm; length of elytra 1.8-2.5 mm, width at shoulders 0.7-1.0 mm; pygidium 0.9-1.3 mm; fifth sternite 0.3-0.5 mm.

General shape elongate, sides anteriorly parallel, posteriorly attenuated.

Integument black, pubescence yellow with golden shine.

Head (fig. 2) almost as long (from the point of the mandibles to hind margin) as broad, full face outline approximately circular, in lateral view flat; fine and densely punctate, with blue shagreen, hind margin convex. Eyes elongate, finely granulate, hairy, temporal margin extremely narrow. Last three segments of maxillary palp extremely elongate and narrow (fig. 2), more than 2 times as long as antenna. Antennal segments 5-10 in ♂ 1.25 as long as broad, in ♀ quadrate; segment 11 1.5 times as long as segment 10 (fig. 2).

Pronotum with width/length ratio 1.2, broadest approximately in middle; anterior border convex, basal lobe protruding; lateral borders in dorsal view moderately convex, posteriorly



Figs. 1-3. *Mordellistena aypassai* n.sp. ♂ holotype (Tunisia, Feriana): 1, pygidium; 2, head with maxillary palpi and antennae; 3, parameres.

straight, in lateral view concave; basal angles of pronotum rectangular; punctures shallowly impressed. Scutellum triangular.

Elytra with length/width ratio ♂ 2.4-2.7, ♀ 2.5-2.7; sides nearly parallel, posteriorly attenuated; elytral apices separately rounded, punctures slightly asperate, pubescence densely covering integument.

Underside with sparse bright pubescence, hairs on meso- and metasternum short.

Ratio length of pygidium (fig. 1)/length of fifth sternite in ♂ 2.5-4.0, in ♀ 2.6-3.4; pygidium in ♂ approximately 0.7 times as long as elytra, in ♀ 0.5; pygidium in dorsal view strongly attenuated to needle like (fig. 1), upper side of pygidium in lateral view slightly convex.

Upperside of fore tibia in lateral view slightly convex, in male almost not dilated and only some very small hairs on inner border; hind tibia with two spurs, 2 ridges (apart from apical one) the second one reaching 0.75 of the width of the tibia, first tarsal segment with 2 ridges (the 2nd sometimes indistinct), the second tarsal segment with 1 ridge, sometimes indistinct.

Parameres fig. 3.

Material examined: Tunesia, Feriana 600 m, 17.V.1977, leg. D. Aypassa, 1 ♂ holotype, 1 ♀ allotype (Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden) and many other paratypes, same data, in my collection.

The insects were caught on yellow flowering *Chrysanthemum* growing on slopes of the valley Oued el Hogueff.

Discussion. — The new species belongs to the *Mordellistena episternalis* group of which it has the outstanding features in the ridges of the hind tibia, the needle like pygidium, and the genitalia, though it has a flat head and long maxillary palpi, which are currently considered exclusive features of the genus *Mordellistenula* Stshegolewa-Barowskaja. The genitalia have been decisive for its present position in the genus *Mordellistena*.

I dedicate this new species to the collector Mr. D. Aypassa, who was my companion during my 1973 journey (Batten, 1976) and since has most successfully collected Mordellidae for me.

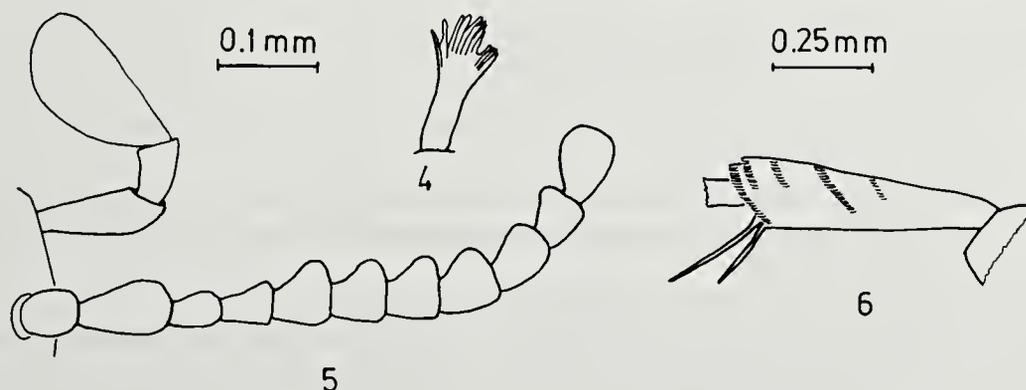
Mordellistena dentata n.sp. (figs. 4, 5, 6)

Description. — Only one ♀: length of body 3.3 mm (without pygidium); length of elytra 2.3 mm, width at shoulders 0.9 mm; pygidium 1.3 mm; fifth sternite 0.5 mm.

General shape robust, slightly convex.

Integument black, pubescence grey with golden shine.

Head almost as long (from point of mandibles to hind margin) as broad, in full face outline approximately circular, surface finely punctate, punctures rather spaced, with glossy interstices, hind margin convex. Galea fig. 4. Eyes finely granulate, hairy, outline approximately oval, tempora reduced to small line with fringe of hairs on the anterior part. Terminal segment of



Figs. 4-6. *Mordellistena dentata* n.sp. ♀ holotype (Greece, Akhaia, Pátrai): 4, left galea; 5, right maxillary palp and antenna; 6, right hind tibia.

maxillary palp approximately securiform, length/width ratio 2, its inner side widely convex, widest at middle (fig. 5). Antennal segments 5-10 triangular with a blunt inner angle, as broad as long (fig. 5).

Pronotum as long as broad, broadest about middle; anterior border convex, basal lobe broadly protruding; lateral borders in dorsal view convex, in lateral view very slightly concave; basal angles approximately rectangular with a distinct rounded edge; punctures slightly larger than on head. Scutellum approximately semicircular.

Elytra with length/width ratio 2.5; sides slightly convex, apices separately rounded, punctures larger than those on pronotum; pubescence moderately covering integument.

Underside with sparse bright pubescence, on last three segments infuscated.

Ratio length of pygidium/length of fifth sternite 2.5; pygidium 0.55 times as long as elytra; pygidium in dorsal view evenly attenuated, in lateral view upperside slightly convex.

Upperside of fore tibia in lateral view slightly convex; hind tibia with 2 spurs and 3 ridges (apart from apical one) (fig. 6), first tarsal segment with 3 ridges, second one with 2 ridges.

Material examined. — Greece (Akhaía) 33 km S. of Patrai, 300 m, on *Daucus*, site with *Pinus* and *Eryngium*, 7.VII.1977, leg. R. Batten, 1 ♀ holotype (in author's collection).

Discussion. — The new species belongs to the *Mordellistena micans* group and has the segments 5-10 of the antenna triangular with a blunt inner angle, which is a feature normally found in *Mordella* Linnaeus, but very seldom in *Mordellistena*. Only *Mordellistena balianii* Franciscolo, according to the description (Franciscolo, 1942) has similar antennal segments though these are about two times as long as broad, whereas the elytra have a length/width ratio of more than three.

As the male is not known, it is not possible now to insert the new species in my key of the *micans* group (Batten, 1977).

I named this species *dentata* because of the form of the antenna.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

From this place I again thank Mr. D. Aypassa, Woerden, for his gifts.

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