

Ochthebius hajeki sp. nov. from Socotra Island (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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Abstract. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov. (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae) is described from Socotra Island (Yemen). It is a member of the *O. foveolatus* subgroup (sensu JÄCH 1991). The new species differs from the two species of this subgroup occurring in the Arabian Peninsula (*O. innexus* Balfour-Browne, 1951, and *O. harteni* Jäch & Delgado, 2010) by its paler colouration and the shape of the aedeagus. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov. is the second hydraenid species known from Socotra.

Key words. Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Ochthebius*, new species, Yemen, Socotra, Indian Ocean

Introduction

The first species of Hydraenidae from Socotra Island in the Indian Ocean, *Limnebius dioscoridus*, was described recently by JÄCH & DELGADO (2012).

In 2012, during another Socotra expedition carried out by Czech biologists, numerous specimens of an undescribed species of *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 were collected. This species is described below.

Material and methods

The specimens are deposited in the following collections:

IBEB Institut de Biología Evolutiva, Barcelona, Spain;
NHMW Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Vienna, Austria;
NMPC Národní muzeum v Praze, Prague, Czech Republic.

The specimen selected for the habitus figure was cleaned with a fine soft brush damped with absolute alcohol. The photograph was taken with a Nikon DS-U2 unit camera attached to

a Leica MZ9S stereomicroscope. The images at different focal plane were combined using software programme CombineZP. Small image adjustments were edited with Adobe Photoshop.

Taxonomy

Ochthebius hajeki sp. nov.

(Figs 1–2)

Type locality. Yemen, Socotra Island, Dixam Plateau, Firmihin, 12°28.6'N 54°01.1'E, 490 m a.s.l. (Figs 3–4).

Type material. HOLOTYPE: ♂ (NMPC): 'YEMEN SOCOTRA ISLAND Dixam plateau 14.-15.vi.2012 FIRMIHIN, *Dracaena* woodland 12°28.6'N 54°01.1'E, 490 m', 'SOCOTRA expedition 2012 J. Bezděk, J. Hájek, V. Hula, P. Kment, I. Malenovský, J. Niedobová & L. Purchart leg.'. PARATYPES: 42 specimens (IBEB, NHMW, NMPC): same locality label as holotype [two paratypes kept in alcohol were sent to IBEB for future DNA-sequencing].

Diagnosis. Habitus as in Fig. 1. Body length (abdomen not included): 1.35–1.60 mm. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov. is characterized by rather dark, brownish colouration with greenish and coppery reflections on pronotum. The body form is comparatively short and oval, distinctly convex. The pronotum is not strongly heart-shaped; the pronotal disc is rather sparsely and superficially punctate.

The sexual dimorphism of the new species is well pronounced (see below).

Aedeagus (Fig. 2): PL (projected length sensu JÄCH 1998) of main piece: 0.31–0.34 mm. It vaguely resembles the aedeagi of the species of the *O. mediterraneus* complex (see DELGADO & JÄCH 2009). However, the left branch of the new species is much longer and the right branch is more triangular than ring-shaped.

Sexual dimorphism. Anterior margin of male labrum usually slightly upturned. Elytral apices of female more or less acuminate, lateral elytral gutter of female hardly wider than in male, but conspicuously elevated at posterior 0.45. In most of the females there is a distinct subhumeral elytral depression, which is hardly developed in any of the males. Pseudepipleura of female with longitudinal fringe of densely set, long whitish setae at anterior



Fig. 1. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov., habitus, holotype. Scale bar: 0.5 mm.

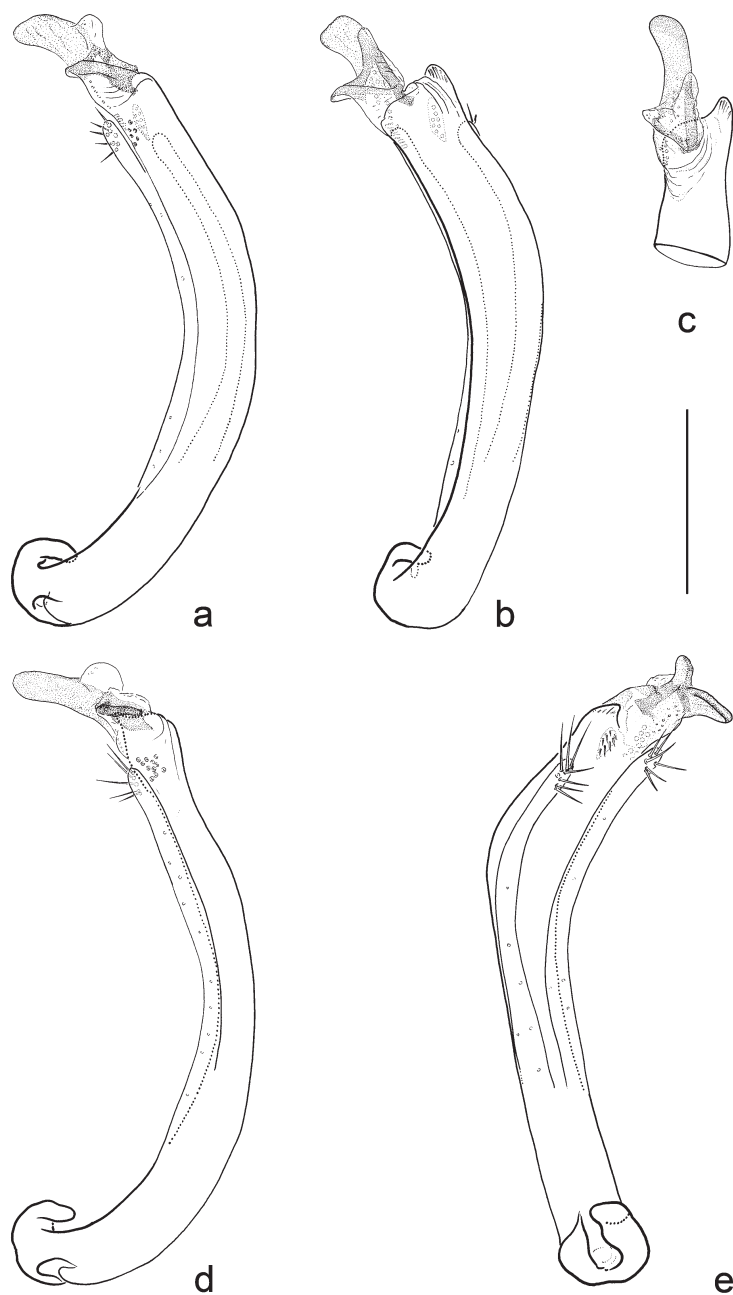


Fig. 2. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov., aedeagus, holotype (a) dorso-lateral view; (b) almost dorsal view; (c) strictly dorsal view of apex; (d) lateral view; (e) ventral view. Scale bar: 0.1 mm.



Figs 3–4. Type locality of *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov. Arrows in Fig. 3 show the location of the microhabitat of *O. hajeki* sp. nov. (Photos J. Hájek).

0.4–0.5. Base of male tarsi with adhesive setae. Last abdominal tergite of female with fringe of bristles.

Variability. The pronotal foveae are usually distinct, but on average not very deeply impressed; in one of the male paratypes the posterior ones are almost completely effaced.

Differential diagnosis. *Ochthebius hajeki* sp. nov. is a member of the *O. foveolatus* subgroup (sensu JÄCH 1991). This subgroup consists of almost 30 species, which are more or less confined to the Palaearctic Realm (JÄCH 1991, DELGADO & JÄCH 2009, JÄCH & DELGADO 2010). A few species are distributed along the northern fringe of the Oriental Region, e.g. in the Himalayas and in Taiwan. No species of this group has so far been recorded from the African continent south of the Sahara.

Two species of the *O. foveolatus* subgroup occur in the Arabian Peninsula: *O. innexus* Balfour-Browne, 1951, and *O. harteni* Jäch & Delgado, 2010. These two species can be easily distinguished from the new species by the paler colouration and the aedeagi (see JÄCH 1991: Fig. 21, and JÄCH & DELGADO 2010: Figs 23–26).

Etymology. Named for Jiří Hájek (NMPC), who collected the majority of the type specimens.

Habitat. All specimens were collected in a hygropetric habitat, where a film of water was flowing over orange algae on travertine rock (Figs 3–4). *Limnebius dioscoridus* was collected there as well, but it was also found in other microhabitats on the same rock.

Distribution. So far known from one locality on Socotra Island, Yemen.

Acknowledgements

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