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Description of a new *Aphaonus* species (Coleoptera, Carabidae)

by A.S. Zamotajlov

Abstract: A new carabid beetles species, *Aphaonus miroshnikovi* n. sp. from Abkhazia, Caucasus, is described.

Key words: Coleoptera Carabidae – Caucasus – *Aphaonus* – description – new species.

According to KRYZHANOVSKIJ & ABDURAKHMANOV (1983), the genus *Aphaonus* Reitt. comprises now 6 species, distributed in the western part of the Caucasus Major. Below is given a description of one further species of the genus.

Aphaonus miroshnikovi n. sp.

Figs. 1 – 5.

Habitus (Fig. 1). Length 15.6 – 17.2 mm. Width 3.9 – 4.4 mm. Body black, polished.

Head broad, frontal furrows prominent, evenly divergent posteriad, without foveae at the middle, genae faintly prominent, neck broad, posttemporal tubercles rather small, eyes prominent, about two-thirds times as long as genae; mentum tooth rather short, bifid.

Pronotum longitudinal, 1.00 – 1.15 times as long as wide, moderately convex, strongly contracted posteriorly, widest at about apical third; apex somewhat emarginate, lateral sides narrowly reflexed, moderately arcuate in front, very weakly sinuated behind, base sinuated, hind angles almost rectangular, prominent, extended laterad; anterior transverse impression shallow, although more or less prominent, median line deep, not reaching both extremities, basal foveae rather deep; lateral margins with 1 – 3 anterior marginal setae (2 specimens have 1 seta on one side and 1 on another, 7 specimens – 2 on one side and 1 on another, and 1 specimen – 3 on one side and 2 on another) and 1 posterior one at both sides.

Elytra oblong-oval, rather narrow, 1.91 – 2.10 times as long as wide, sides subparallel, shoulders rounded but prominent, forming obtuse angles; striae moderately prominent, scutellary striole distinct, interspaces subconvex; interspace 3 with 1 pore adjoining stria 2 at two-thirds, marginal series sharply interrupted, of two groups of pores, basal one composed of 5 – 6 pores and apical one of 4 – 6 pores.

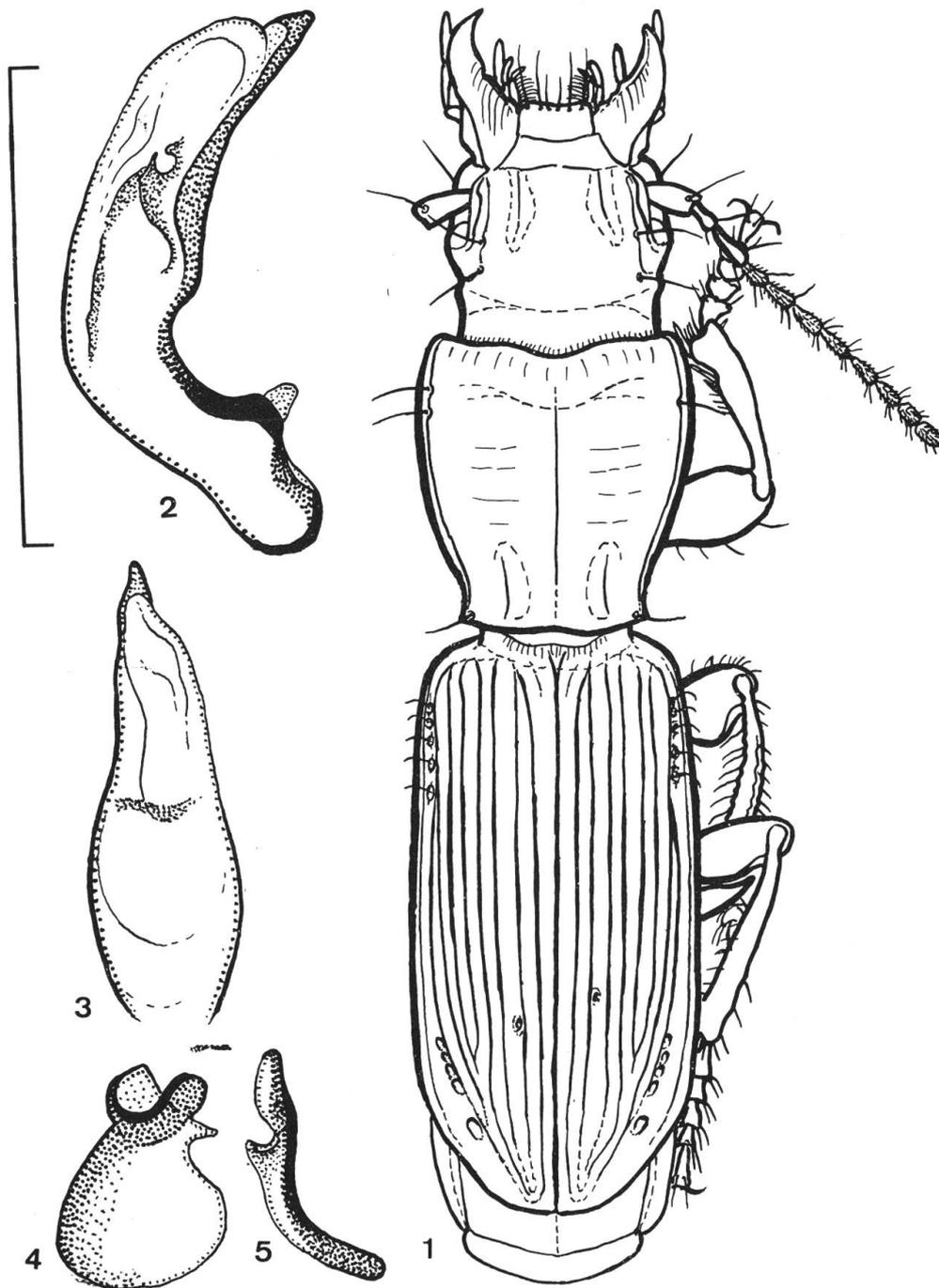


Fig. 1: *Aphaonus miroshnikovi* n. sp., general view.

Figs 2-5: *Aphaonus miroshnikovi* n. sp.: 2, aedeagus, left lateral view. 3, idem, apex in dorsal view. 4, left paramere, 5, right paramere. Scale: 3 mm.

Metatrochantera about three-fourths times as long as metafemora in males and about two-thirds in females. Ventral side of tarsal segment 5 absolutely not pubescent.

Aedeagus (Figs 2,3) rather weakly bending, of the normal for the bulk of known species (except for *A. koenigianus* Tschitsch. and *A. tichonis* Sem.) shape, with more or less prominent protuberance at ventral side. Left paramere (Fig. 4) wide, right one (Fig. 5) fairly slender, curving, both normal in form and size.

Holotype: ♂ (ZIL = Zoological Institute Acad. Sci., Leningrad), Caucasus, Abkhazia, Bzybian Mt. Range, environs of Khuap, 1500 m. 14. V – 8. VII. 1990, A. Zamotajlov & A. Miroshnikov, Paratypes: 2 ♂ & 1 ♂ (NHMB = Natural History Museum, Basel); 5 ♂ 3 ♂ (in the author's coll.), same locality, together with holotype.

The new species resembles habitually smaller specimens of *A. compressus* Rost or, especially, larger ones of *A. cylindriformis* Reitt., although it is somewhat more robust, shape and proportions of pronotum are closer to those of *A. pseudopercus* Reitt., ventral side of the ultimate tarsal segments always without even minute pubescence, lateral margins of pronotum usually with more than 1 setiferous pores in apical half (at least at one side). Judging from the structure of aedeagus, the new species is closely related to species of both sections I and III after SEMENOW (1899). From *A. arcanus* (Kurn.), which also occurs at the Bzybian Mt. Range, it differs in many characters (KURNAKOV, 1962 & KRYZHANOVSKIJ, 1989).

Type specimens were collected in the beech forest.

This species is named after my friend and colleague Dr. A. I. Miroshnikov of Krasnodar.

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