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Description of a new *Corticaria* from Socotra Island (Coleoptera: Latridiidae)

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Abstract. *Corticaria dioscorida* sp. nov. from Socotra Island, Yemen is described and illustrated. With heavily toothed sides of pronotum, the new species is similar to *Corticaria arenosa* Rücker, 2011 from the United Arab Emirates, from which it differs in broadly rounded and convex elytra.

Key words. Coleoptera, Latridiidae, *Corticaria*, new species, Yemen, Socotra

Introduction

Latridiidae represent a small family of mycetophagous beetles. Altogether, 30 genera and ca. 770 species are known to occur in all zoogeographical regions of the world (cf. RÜCKER 2010). The fauna of Latridiidae of the African Horn and the Arabian Peninsula is poorly known – so far only 19 species have been recorded from the region (cf. OTTO 1978, 1979; RÜCKER 1985, 2008, 2011; JOHNSON 2007).

Corticaria Marsham, 1802 represents the worldwide species-richest genus within Latridiidae, with about 170 known species – five of them have been recorded also from the Arabian Peninsula. A recent entomological research of Czech entomologists in Socotra Island (Yemen) revealed a new peculiar *Corticaria*, which I describe below.

Material and methods

Exact label data are cited for all type specimens; a forward slash (/) separates different lines of data.

The specimens included in this study are deposited in the following institutional and private collections:

NMPC Národní muzeum, Prague, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek);
WRCN Wolfgang H. Rücker collection, Neuwied, Germany.

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Systematics

Corticaria dioscorida sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–2)

Type locality. Yemen, Socotra Island, Al Haghier Mts., Scant Mt. env., 12°34.6′N, 54°01.5′E, 1450 m.
Type material. Holotype: ♂ (NMPC), labelled: 'YEMEN, Socotra Island / Al Haghier Mts. / Scant Mt. env. / 12°34.6′N, 54°01.5′E, 1450 m / J. Bezděk leg., 12-13.xi.2010'. Paratypes: 1 ♀, same label data as holotype (NMPC); 1 ♂ 5 ♀♀ and 2 unsexed specimens, same label data, but P. Hlaváč leg. (NMPC, WRCN); 1 ♀ same label data, but J. Hájek leg. (NMPC).

Description. Body length 1.5–1.9 mm. Coloration of head, pronotum and appendages yellowish brown, coloration of elytra maroon to brown.

Head broader than long, maximum width/length ratio 1 : 0.5; microsculptured, with fine and sparsely distributed punctures; recumbent setation short. Eyes small, hemispherical, coarsely facetted; diameter of eye ca. 0.06 mm. Temples short, their length corresponding approximately to size of two facets, ca. 0.03 mm. Antenna with eleven antennomeres; antennal club trimerous. Length of antenna 0.57 mm.

Pronotum broader than long, maximum width : length ratio 1 : 0.78; microsculptured, matt; punctures sparse, hardly visible. Sides flat, each with five distinct teeth in anterior three quarters, two small teeth subbasally, and acute angles forming additional teeth (Fig. 1); all teeth bearing single long seta (length ca. 0.06 mm). Pronotum subbasally with large shallow depression in middle; pronotal disc distinctly convex. Setation short and recumbent; with row of long, backward directed setae along sides.

Elytra broadly rounded, widest in basal third, maximum width : length ratio 1: 1.29; convex. Lateral margin very narrow, visible only in basal fifth in dorsal view. Humeral bulge not developed. Surface microsculptured, weakly shiny. Punctation fine, indistinct; odd puncture rows formed by coarse punctures, each puncture with one very short seta (visible using 80x magnification); even puncture rows formed by sparse very fine punctures, each puncture with long seta (length ca. 0.10 mm) (Fig. 1). Hind wings poorly developed, micropterous and thus beetle unable to flight.

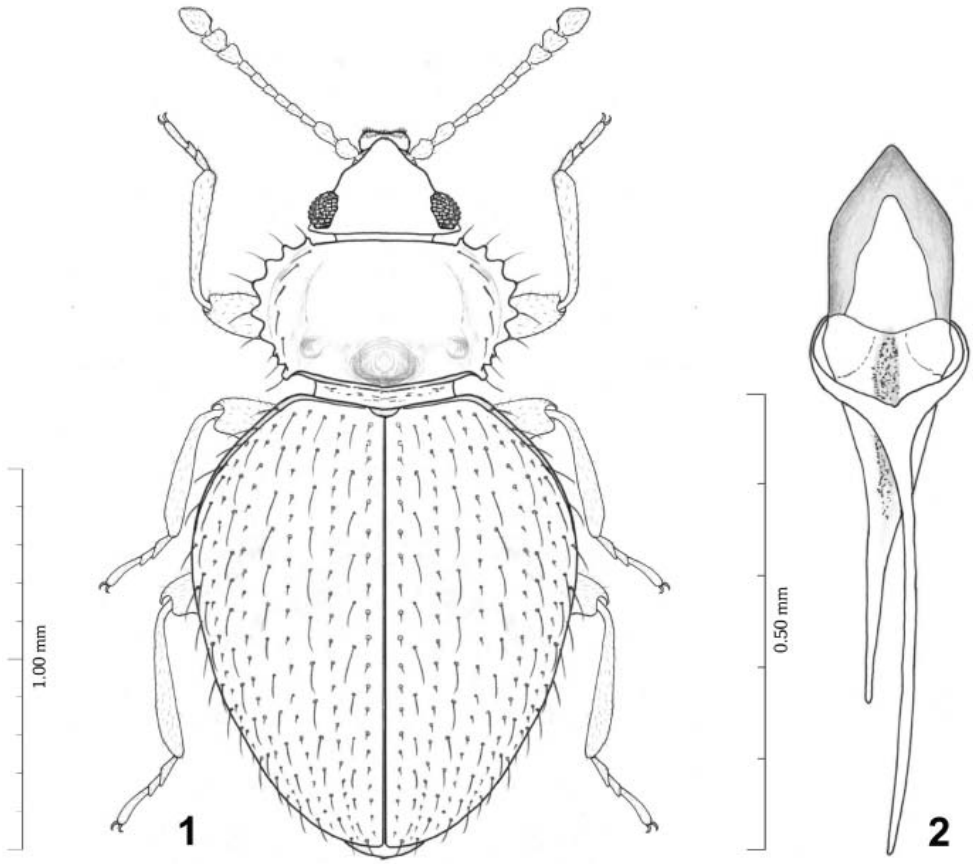
Male. Length of aedeagus ca. 0.79 mm, width ca. 0.09 mm. Length of median lobe ca. 0.26 mm, tegmen ca. 0.53 mm. Sides of median lobe parallel, apex lanceolate, preputial sac with tiny acerate tooth (Fig. 2).

Female. Without conspicuous external differences from male.

Differential diagnosis. A conspicuous *Corticaria*, characterised by distinctly toothed sides of the pronotum, in which it resembles *Corticaria arenosa* Rücker, 2011 from the United Arab Emirates (Rücker 2011). However, *Corticaria dioscorida* sp. nov. can be easily separated from that species by broadly rounded and distinctly convex elytra, contrary to rather subparallel and flat elytra of *C. arenosa* (cf. Rücker 2011: Fig. 1).

Etymology. The new species is named after the ancient name of Socotra Island – Dioscoridou (in Greek) or Dioscoridus (in Latin).

Collection circumstances. The type specimens of *Corticaria dioscorida* sp. nov. were sifted from litter under shrubs and trees in high altitudes (above 1400 m) of the Haghier Mountains



Figs. 1–2. *Corticaria dioscorida* sp. nov. 1 – habitus; 2 – aedeagus.

together with, e.g. *Nanocaecus hlavaci* Schawaller & Purchart, 2012 (cf. Schawaller & Purchart 2012).

Distribution. So far known only from the type locality in Al Haghier Mountains, Socotra Island.

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