

ARNALDO BORDONI (*)(**) and PAOLO MAGRINI (*)

LATHROBIUM BASTIANINII N. SP.
OF THE LIMESTONE CAVES OF PITECCIO (TUSCANY, ITALY)
(Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

INTRODUCTION

The authors describes *Lathrobium bastianinii* n. sp. from the cavities Tecchia di Calabbiana and Buca d'Anna (Piteccio, Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy), already known for the presence of other endemic species, comparing it with *L. andreinii* Schatzmayr & Koch, 1934 from Apuan Alps.

Lathrobium bastianinii n. sp.

TYPE SERIES. Holotypus ♂: Italy, Tuscany, Tecchia di Calabbiana cave, cadraсте number 775T/PT the cadastre caves of Tuscany, Piteccio (Pistoia), 23.VIII.2008, M. Bastianini & P. Magrini leg. (coll. Magrini). Paratype: Italy, Tuscany, Buca d'Anna, cadraсте number 829 T/PT, Piteccio (Pistoia), 5.IV.1997, S. Vanni leg., 1 ♀ (coll. Bordoni).

DESCRIPTION. Body (fig. 1) 11.5 mm long; length from the anterior margin of the head to the posterior margin of elytra: 6 mm. Similar to *Lathrobium andreinii* Schatzmayr & Koch, 1934 from Apuan Alps for the size of the body, for the pointed shape of the ventral lamina. It stands out for the apical portion of the ventral lamina free apex uncinata, the shape of the dorsal lamina.

Body more slender than *andreinii*, with smaller head and pronotum shorter and narrower, elytra a little smaller, narrower abdomen. Second article of the antennae proportionally shorter, from 4th to 11th the articles are more slender and elongate in proportion.

Head with sides less broadly rounded, with punctation very fine, finer than in *andreinii*; pronotum less stout, more slender, less dilated anteriorly, with sparse and minute punctures.

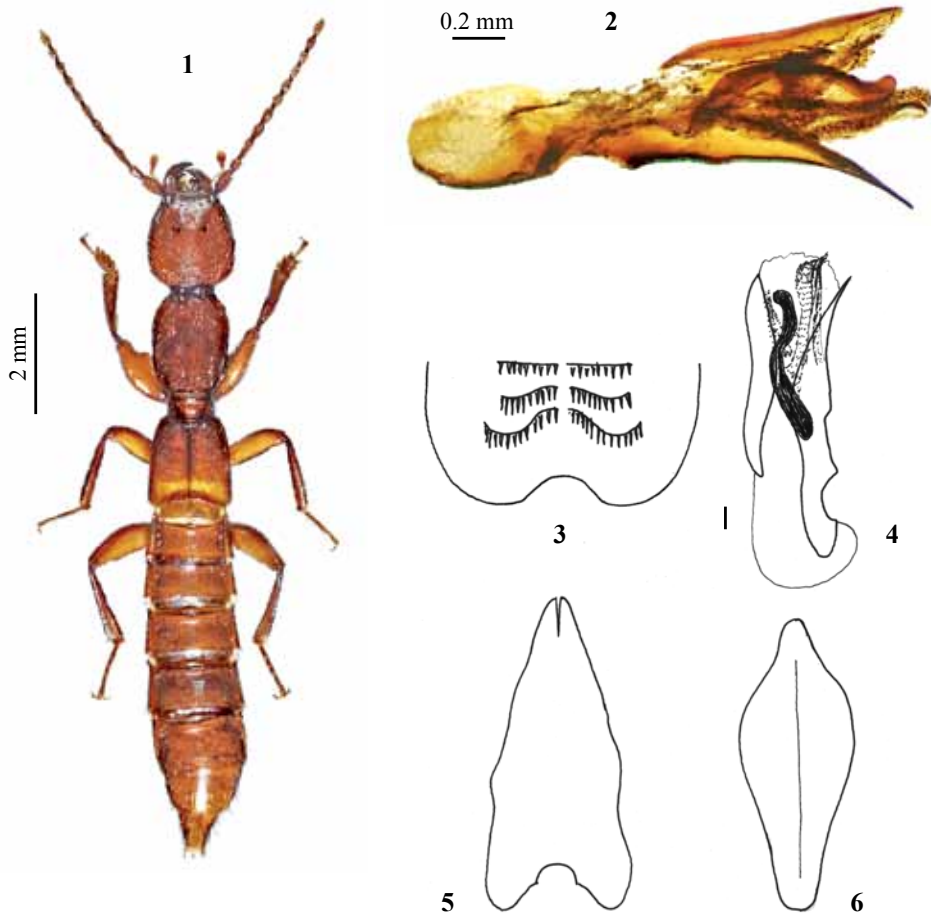
(*) Museo di Storia Naturale dell'Università di Firenze, sezione di Zoologia "La Specola", Via Romana, 17 - 50125 Firenze (Italy).

E-mail: arnaldo.bordoni@fastwebnet.it; duvalius@paolomagrini.it

(**) 213° contribution to the knowledge of the Staphylinidae.

Sixth visible sternite with characteristics arched series of black setae (fig. 3). Aedeagus as in fig. 4. Ventral lamina, in ventral view (fig. 5), with apex divided in half, not hook-like, as observed in lateral view; this is evident in lateral view the very close and the long form of acute apical portion of the lamina. Dorsal lamina, in dorsal view (fig. 6), of characteristics form, with a slight longitudinal projection. It, in lateral view, appears large, thick and without hooked apex.

Internal sac as in fig. 2.



Figs 1-6 – *Lathrobium bastianinii* n. sp.: habitus (Photo: P. Magrini) (1); aedeagus, lateral view (Photo: P. Magrini) (2). Sixth visible male sternite, ventral view (3); aedeagus, lateral view (4); ventral lamina, ventral view (5); dorsal lamina, dorsal view (6). Scale bar: 0.1 mm.

DISTRIBUTION. Known from the type locality only: Piteccio, Tecchia di Calabbiana cave and Buca d'Anna cave.

ETYMOLOGY. The species is dedicated to Marco Bastianini (Follonica), a friend and specialist in Coleoptera Carabidae, that collected the holotype with one of us (P. M.).

NOTES. This very interesting species was collected in the cave Tecchia di Calabbiana, through a trap with attractive liquid (cooked wine), and in the cave of Buca d'Anna, near Piteccio (Pistoia, Tuscany).

“Tecchia di Calabbiana” is located about 1 km south west of Piteccio (Pistoia), 325 m above sea level, near a forest of *Quercus ilex* Linné. It has the form of close diaclasi that opens into a small outcrop of limestone of the lower Paleocene-Eocene, surrounded by sandstone of Oligocene-Miocene and south by alluvional deposits of the plains of Pistoia (Vanni & Lanza, 1983). The cave is very steep and consists of a hallway that ends in a impracticable tunnel with two small rooms side. The temperature is relatively low, despite the short distance (30 meters).

“Buca d'Anna” is a cave of 25 meters of length. It is about 10 meters from the Tecchia di Calabbiana which is definitely connected. Moreover this area, 8 km north of Pistoia, has five shallow cavity (Buca di Nadia, Grotticella d'Anna Elisa, Buca delle Fate di Calabbiana, Tecchia di Calabbiana and Buca d'Anna), opened a little distance from each other and are probably linked.

They have been studied from the faunistic standpoint especially by the colleague Stefano Vanni of the Zoological Museum, University of Florence (Vanni, 1997) that he has enjoyed numerous species belonging to several orders and families (Araneae, Diplopoda, Isopoda, Orthoptera, Coleoptera, Mollusca, Amphibia). In the cited contribution (Vanni, 1997) is reported the *Lathrobium* female specimen collected in the Buca d'Anna, as a likely new species “(Bordoni, com. pers.)”.

The lens of limestone Piteccio is rather small and isolated and that is home to a not insignificant number of endemics: *Duvalius minozzii magrini* Vanni & Lanza, 1983 (Magrini, 1997) (Coleoptera, Carabidae), *Tychobythinus vannii* Castellini, 1984 (Coleoptera, Pselaphidae) (present in nearby “Buca di Nadia”, cadraсте number 732 T/PT), *Chthonius lanzai vannii* Callaini, 1986 (Pseudoscorpiones, Chthoniidae), *Dolichopoda laetitia laetitia* Menozzi, 1920 (Orthoptera, Raphidophoridae), *Speleomantes italicus italicus* Dunn, 1926 (Amphibia, Plethodontidae).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. We are grateful to our friends Marco Bastianini (Follonica) and Stefano Vanni (Museo Zoologico “La Specola”, Firenze) for the collaboration in the research.

RIASSUNTO

Gli autori descrivono *Lathrobium bastianinii* n. sp. delle grotte Tecchia di Calabbiana e Buca d'Anna, presso Piteccio (Pistoia), specie morfologicamente affine a *L. andreinii* Schatzmayr & Koch, 1934 delle Alpi Apuane. Sono inoltre presentate alcune brevi considerazioni sulla fauna e la geologia dell'area.

SUMMARY

Lathrobium bastianinii n. sp. of the limestone caves of Piteccio (Tuscany, Italy) (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae).

The authors describe *Lathrobium bastianinii* n. sp. from the caves Tecchia di Calabbiana and Buca d'Anna, near Piteccio (Pistoia, Italy). The new species is compared to *L. andreinii* Schatzmayr & Koch, 1934 from Apuan Alps. Brief comments on the geology and fauna of the area are also given.

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