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Third contribution to the knowledge
of Arabian Onthophagini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae).
Onthophagus aeneopiceus d'Orbigny, 1902, a new record
for Yemen and for the Palaearctic ecozone

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Third contribution to the knowledge
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Onthophagus aeneopiceus d'Orbigny, 1902, a new record
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Abstract. *Onthophagus aeneopiceus* d'Orbigny, 1902 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Onthophagini) is recorded for the first time for Yemen and for the Palaearctic region. An integration into the key to the Onthophagini from the Arabian Peninsula (Ziani et al. 2019), is provided.

Key words. *Onthophagus aeneopiceus*; faunistic; Yemen; Palaearctic; Arabian Peninsula.

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Introduction

After Ziani et al. (2019) and Montanaro and Ziani (2022), 30 Onthophagini species were known from the Arabian Peninsula. In this paper a 31st species is recorded: *Onthophagus aeneopiceus* d'Orbigny, 1902. The species, belonging to the 23rd group of d'Orbigny (1913) and until now known from Eastern Africa and, dubitatively, Ivory Coast (Schoolmeesters 2022), has been collected in Yemen. This is also the first record for the Palaearctic ecozone, *sensu* Löbl and Löbl (2016).

Because of the internal sac morphology, especially that of the lamella copulatrix (Fig. 4), *O. aeneopiceus* can be compared with *Onthophagus mopsus* (Fabricius, 1792), an eastern Palaearctic and Oriental taxon, type-species of the subgenus *Indonthophagus* Kabakov, 2006. Waiting for further studies on the matter (work in progress), we prefer, however, not to insert *O. aeneopiceus* into any known subgenus or group of *Onthophagus*.

Materials and Methods

Initialisms of the collections in which the examined material is preserved are as follows:

DKCC D. Keith private collection, Chartre (France)

MNHN Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris (France)

NMPC National Museum (Natural History), Prague (Czech Republic)

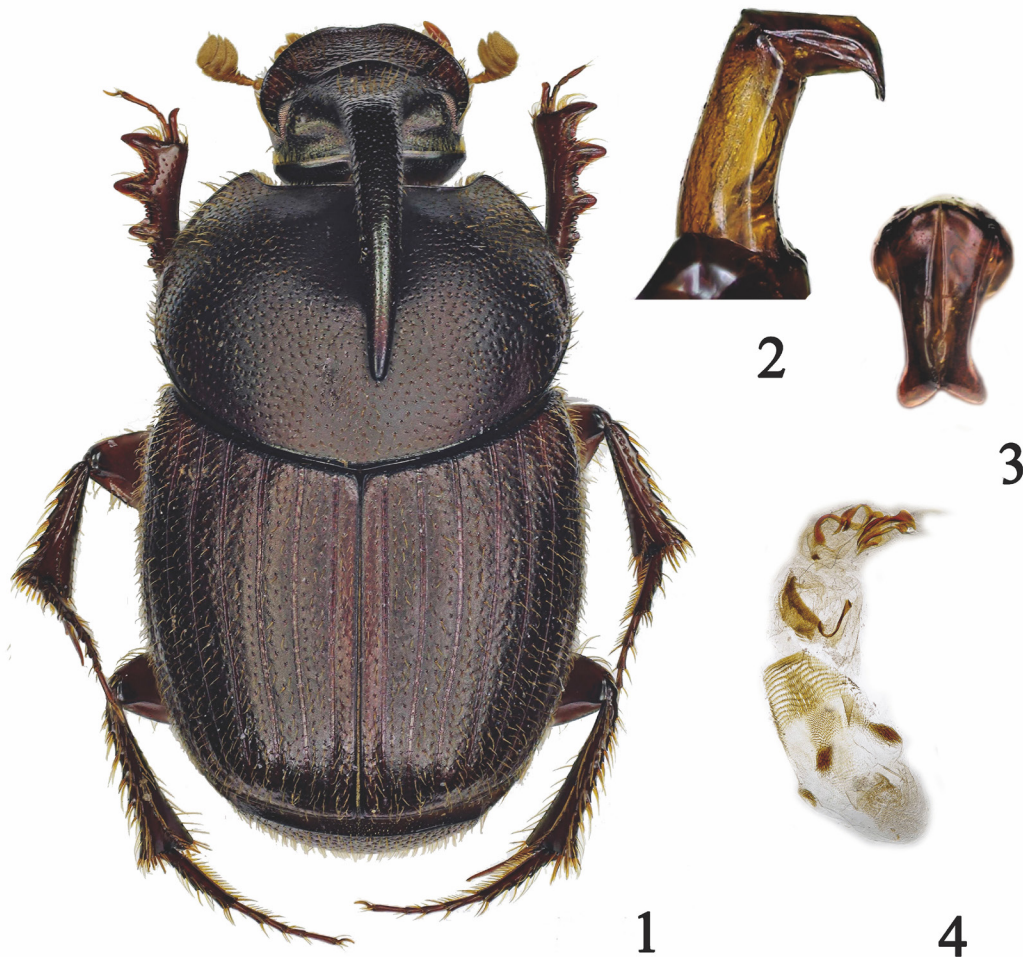
Onthophagus aeneopiceus d'Orbigny, 1902

(Fig. 1–4)

Onthophagus aeneopiceus d'Orbigny 1902: 156; d'Orbigny 1905: 488; d'Orbigny 1913: 376; d'Orbigny, 1922: 609; Boucomont and Gillet 1927: 151; Balthasar 1963: 263; Balthasar 1969: 65; Ferreira 1972: 557; Balthasar 1972: 22; Zunino 1975: 153; Barbero et al. 1998: 243.

Type locality. “Erythrée” [Eritrea].

Type material. Holotype male, fixed by original designation, at MNHN, examined through photos.



Figures 1–4. *Onthophagus aeneopiceus* d’Orbigny, 1902 [Yemen]. 1) Male dorsal habitus. 2) Parameres, lateral view. 3) Parameres, dorsal view. 4) Endophallus. Photos by A. Degiovanni, edited by G. Fiumi.

Type labelling. 1st, light yellow, handwritten in black: “Erythrée”; 2nd, light blue, printed in black: “MUSEUM PARIS / Coll. H. d’Orbigny / 1915”; 3rd, white, handwritten and printed in black: “Vidit / Zunino 1975”; 4th, red, printed in black: “HOLOTYPE”.

Distribution. Eritrea (d’Orbigny 1902). Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya (d’Orbigny 1913). Ivory Coast (Balthasar 1969).

Material examined. YEMEN: Ibb gov., W of Jabal Hadish, 30.iii.1976, R. Naviaux legit 1 ♂ (DKCC); Ibb gov., 5 km SW Najd al Jumai - Wadi Maytam 1600 m, 13°52’28”N 44°17’45” E, 26-27.x.2005, D. Král legit 1 ♂ (NMPC).

Remarks. New record for Yemen and new record for the Palaearctic ecozone (*sensu* Löbl and Löbl 2016).

The species can be inserted in the key to the Arabian *Onthophagini* (Ziani et al. 2019) as follows:

26. Pronotal punctation simple or ocellate on disc; quite glossy; major males with clypeus produced to a blunt point, which is strongly reflexed, and with vertex of the head produced in a pair of unconnected horns, very broad and directed backward at the base, with a small sharp tooth on the outer edge of each, beyond which they curve upward and are tapered, bisinuate, and sharp at the tip; female margin of clypeus is truncate at middle; blackish brown, elytra with basal and apical yellowish red spots which are usually confluent. Length 5.5 to 7.0 mm *Onthophagus (Onthophagus) falsus* Gillet, 1925
- Pronotal punctation raspish on disc 26’

- 26' Pygidial largest punctures close on disc, separated by less than one diameter; pronotum dull; head not sinuate near obviously produced genae; clypeofrontal carina with a very long backwards horn, in major males, sometimes extending beyond pronotal hind margin; pronotum without obvious gibbositities; blackish brown. Length 4.5 to 6.0 mm *Onthophagus aeneopiceus* d'Orbigny, 1902
- Pygidial largest punctures spaced on disc, separated by one diameter, or more; pronotum glossy; head barely sinuate near obviously produced genae; clypeofrontal carina with a short backwards horn, in major males, as long as the occipital carina, or a little more, pronotum with an anteromedian bilobate gibbosity; blackish brown, elytra sometimes with apical dark red band. Length 5.0 to 6.0 mm *Onthophagus trapezicornis* d'Orbigny, 1902

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