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First record of *Iphthiminus italicus* (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae) in Bulgaria

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Abstract. *Iphthiminus italicus croaticus* (Truqui, 1857) is reported from Bulgaria for the first time. Genus *Iphthiminus* Spilman, 1973 is also new to the Bulgarian fauna.

Key words: *Iphthiminus italicus croaticus,* faunistics, habitat, Bulgaria

Introduction

Nowadays genus *Iphthiminus* Spilman, 1973 is represented by seven species of Holarctic distribution. In the Palearctic region the genus is represented by *I. italicus* (Truqui, 1857) with three subspecies: ssp. *bellardi* (Truqui, 1857), distributed in Greece, Cyprus, Israel, Syria and Turkey; ssp. *croaticus* (Truqui, 1857) – in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Greece; ssp. *italicus* (Truqui, 1857) – in Italy and France (Löbl 2008).

The taxon *croaticus* is descibed from Hungary, Croatia and Greece (Truqui 1857). More recent data are provided by Oertzen (1886), Müller (1920), Schatzmayr (1943), Gridelli (1950), Kühnelt (1965), Kaszab (1967), Geisthardt (1975), Schawaller (1996), Fattorini *et al.* (1999), Liberto & Leo (2006). Recently, ssp. *croaticus* was reported from Montenegro (Kovács *et al.* 2011). In 2012 I collected a single female specimen of *I. italicus croaticus* from Bulgaria.

Material and methods

The beetle was collected at night using head lamp and fixed in a mixture of ethanol, acetic acid and glycerol (Hood 1953). For identification the keys of Gebien (1913) and Reitter (1920) were used. The identified specimen was pinned and preserved in the collection in the Department of Zoology and Anthropology, Faculty of Biology, Sofia University.

Results

Iphthiminus italicus croaticus (Truqui, 1857)

New data: Bulgaria, Kresna Gorge, N41°47'41.95" E23°09'28.73", 265 m, 16.07.2012, 1 ♀, at night on the ground, leg. O. Sivilov.

Body length: 26 mm. The specimen displays characters typical for ssp. *croaticus* (Fig. 1). It is distinguished by the following features: pronotum with relatively large and dense punctures, rear angles nearly spiniform; elytra finely wrinkled (like shagreen), with rows of dense punctures.

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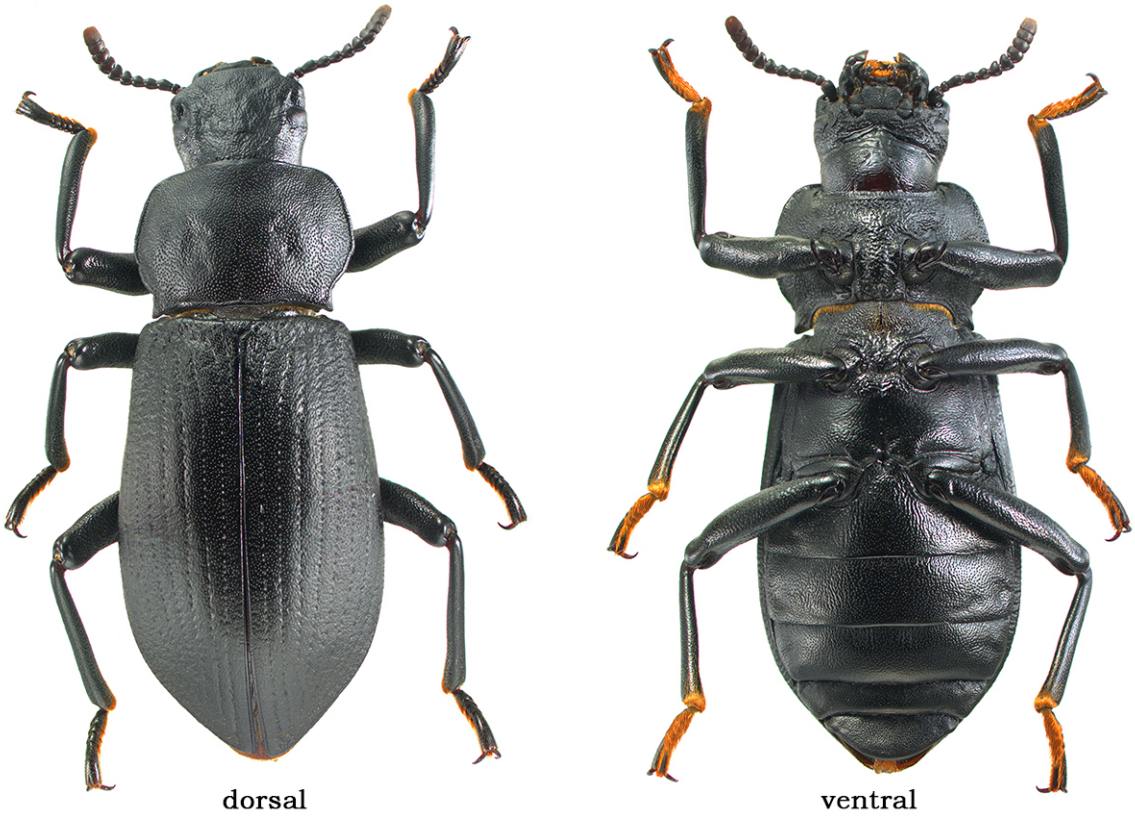

Fig. 1. *Iphthiminus italicus croaticus*, SW Bulgaria: Kresna Gorge. Photo: the author.

According to W. Schawaller (pers. comm.) ssp. *croaticus* and ssp. *bellardi* should be synonymised with the nominate form. In his opinion the species is somewhat variable and the separation into subspecies has no scientific reasons.

The beetle was collected in the southern part of Kresna Gorge located in southwestern Bulgaria (Fig. 2). The gorge is very dry, hot and covered by xerotermic forest dominated by *Quercus pubescens* Willd. and some typical Mediterranean species as *Phyllirea latifolia* L., *Juniperus excelsa* M. B., *Pistacia terebinthus* L. etc. The habitat where the beetle was collected is a small gully, more humid than surroundings, with steep rocky slopes. Main plant species are *Tilia*, *Carpinus orientalis* Mill. and *Lunaria* (Fig. 3).

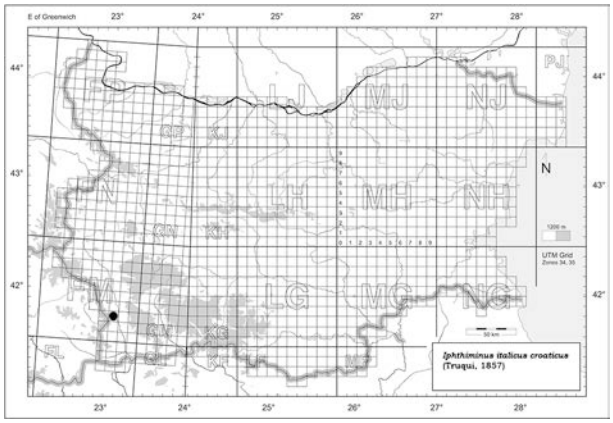

Fig. 2. Locality of *I. italicus croaticus* in Bulgaria.

Fig. 3. Habitat of *I. italicus croaticus* in Kresna Gorge.

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