

A new species of the *Stenus subcylindricus* group from northwestern Spain (Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Steninae)

VOLKER ASSING

Gabelsbergerstraße 2, D-30163 Hannover, Germany [vassing.hann@t-online.de]

Abstract. *Stenus (Hemistenus) janbellini* sp. n. from Asturias, northwestern Spain, is described, illustrated, and distinguished from other species of the *S. subcylindricus* group.

Key words. Staphylinidae, Steninae, *Stenus*, Palearctic, Europe, Spain, taxonomy, new species.

Introduction

The *Stenus subcylindricus* group of the subgenus *Hemistenus* Motschulsky, 1860 currently comprises four species, all of them occurring in northwestern Spain: *S. subcylindricus* Scriba, 1870, *S. asturicus* Puthz, 1967, *S. laevifrons* Puthz, 1967, and the recently described *S. bipartitus* Feldmann, 2000 (FELDMANN 2000; PUTHZ 1967). Within the subgenus, these species are characterized by very short elytra without distinct anterior angles, reduced hind wings, narrow paratergites, and similar genitalia (see illustrations in PUTHZ 1967 and FELDMANN 2000); all of them have restricted distributions.

While trying to collect the remarkable paederine *Lathrorugilus starkei* Assing & Feldmann, 2001 at the type locality of that species, my son and I not only found a series of *Stenus bipartitus*, but also a male of an undescribed *Stenus* species of the *S. subcylindricus* group. This discovery once again demonstrates our poor knowledge of the staphylinid fauna of the northern Iberian peninsula.

Stenus (Hemistenus) janbellini sp. n.

(Figs. 1–3)

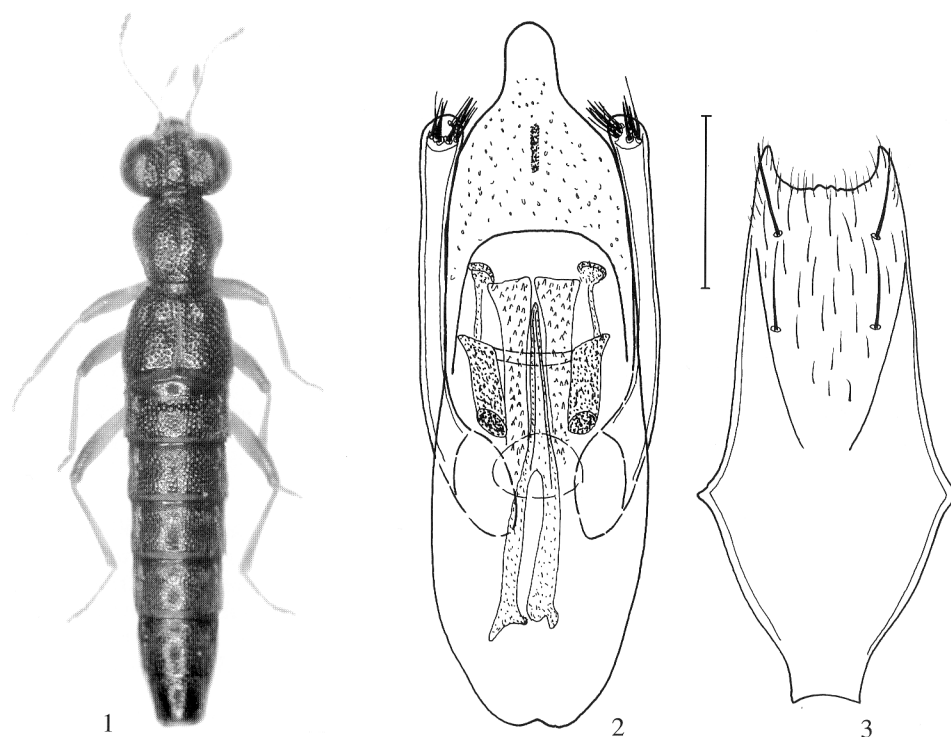
Description. **Facies.** As in Fig. 1. **Measurements** (in mm) and **ratios** (holotype). Head width (HW): 0.98; pronotal width (PW): 0.79; pronotal length (PL): 0.74; length of elytral suture from apex of scutellum to elytral hind margin (EL): 0.63; length of metatibia, lateral aspect (TiL): 0.89; length of metatarsus, claws not included (TaL): 0.62; length of median lobe: 0.82; total length, abdomen extended: 5.4. HW/PW: 1.25; PL/PW: 0.94; EL/PL: 0.86; TiL/TaL: 1.44.

Coloration. Body black, only with subdued, non-metallic shine. Antennae light brown, with the apical antennomeres slightly darker. Maxillary palpi testaceous, with the apical segment slightly infuscate (light brown). Legs testaceous, with the apices of the femora weakly infuscate.

Head. Distinctly wider than pronotum (see ratio HW/PW and Fig. 1); with dense and coarse puncturation, interstices much narrower than punctures, mostly reduced to narrow ridges (also on frons), without microsculpture; frontal furrows distinct.

Pronotum. Slightly wider than long (see ratio PL/PW), maximal width in anterior half, in dorsal view with distinctly convex lateral margins. Along median line with oblong, and near posterior margin with pair of subcircular, more or less irregular impressions; posterior impressions externally delimited by elevations (Fig. 1). Puncturation as dense and almost as coarse as that of head, interstices with microreticulation.

Wings. Elytra at suture distinctly shorter than pronotum (see ratio EL/PL), in dorsal view dilated posteriorly; anterior angles almost obsolete. Anteriorly on either side of suture with relatively deep impressions, remainder of surface somewhat uneven (Fig. 1). Puncturation and microsculpture similar to that of pronotum. Hind wings reduced.



Figs. 1–3. *Stenus janbellini* sp. n., male holotype. **1:** Facies. **2:** Aedeagus. **3:** Sternite IX. (Scale: 0.2 mm)

Legs. Relatively slender and with claviform femora.

Abdomen. Gradually tapering posteriorly and with narrow paratergites (Fig. 1). Punctuation dense and distinct, finer than that of forebody, coarser on tergites III and IV than on posterior tergites. Interstices with distinct microreticulation. Tergite VII posteriorly without palisade fringe.

Terminalia ♂. Posterior margin of sternite VIII concave in the middle. Aedeagus large, apically pointed, apex with long sclerotized part, with narrow membranous fringe, and with short dark keel; internal structures as in Fig. 2; sternite IX relatively broad and short (Fig. 3). ♀. unknown.

Derivatio nominis. I dedicate this species to my son Jan Bellin, together with whom I collected this species and to whom I am grateful for his assistance on so many field trips, his entertaining company, as well as his (almost) infinite patience with a restless father.

Comparative notes. *S. janbellini* is distinguished from all other species of the *S. subcylindricus* group by the morphology of the aedeagus (apex with extensively sclerotized part and with keel, shape of internal tube), by the more distinctly microsculptured and consequently less shining pronotum, elytra, and abdomen, and by the more pronounced impressions on the pronotum and the elytra. *S. asturicus* and *S. laevifrons* additionally differ from the new species by the truncate or weakly pointed apex of the aedeagus, respectively, and by the longer expulsion ligaments and the much smaller sclerotized structures in the internal sac of the aedeagus. For illustrations of the genitalia of the related species see PUTHZ (1967) and FELDMANN (2000).

Distribution and bionomics. The type locality of *S. janbellini*, which is identical with the type locality of *Lathrorugilus starkei*, is a remarkable cloud forest composed of old birch, oak, and mountain ash (all the trees densely covered with lichens) with *Erica* and *Luzula* undergrowth. The litter layer owes its existence to the dense *Luzula* roots, which form a carpet of

5–15 cm depth enclosing decomposing leaves and humus. The stratum below this *Luzula* carpet is formed by coarse scree (somewhat resembling that of a railroad track) of unknown depth. Apart from the holotype of *S. janbellini* and numerous specimens of *Lathrorugilus starkei*, 15 species of Staphylinidae were found in this remarkable biotope, among them *Stenus bipartitus* (13 exs.), *Ischnosoma spelaeum* (Scriba, 1870) (1 ex.), *Leptusa lativentris* Sharp, 1875 (191 exs.), *L. inexpectata* Fagel, 1967 (35 exs.), *L. hummleri* Bernhauer, 1910 (5 exs.), *L. nigerrima* Pace, 1983 (2 exs.), a probably new species of Pselaphinae (Brachat pers. comm.), and an apparently new species of *Blepharhymenus* Solier, 1849.

Material. Holotype ♂, 'E-Asturias, 8, Sierra de Rañadoiro, Puerto del Connio, 1300 m, 43°02'33N, 6°43'08W, 25.VI.2002, V. Assing / Holotypus ♂ *Stenus janbellini* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2002' (coll. Assing).

Acknowledgement

I am most grateful to Volker Puthz (Schlitz) for examining the holotype and for providing me with material of *Stenus laevifrons* and *S. asturicus* for comparison.

References

- ASSING, V. & B. FELDMANN 2001. A remarkable new European genus of Paederinae (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). – Entomologische Blätter **97**: 49–57.
- FELDMANN, B. 2000. Eine neue Art der Gattung *Stenus* LATREILLE 1796 aus dem nordwestlichen Spanien (Insecta, Coleoptera, Staphylinidae: Steninae). – Linzer biologische Beiträge **32**: 149–153.
- PUTHZ, V. 1967. Alte und neue spanische *Stenus*-Arten (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae). – Eos **42**: 535–545.