

The third species of *Cantaberella* TRONQUET from northern Spain (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae)

V. ASSING

Abstract: *Cantaberella tenebrosa* sp. n. (Cantábria: Picos de Europa) is described and illustrated. It is compared with its two congeners *C. pacei* (TRONQUET) and *C. feldmanni* ASSING.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Aleocharinae, *Cantaberella*, Palaearctic region, Spain, taxonomy, new species, endemism

Introduction

The distribution of the genus *Cantaberella* TRONQUET 1998 is confined to northern Spain, from where two endemic species were previously known: *C. pacei* (TRONQUET 1998) from the Pico de Tres Mares (Cantábria) and *C. feldmanni* ASSING 2000 from the Sierra del Teleno (Castilla y León). Only recently, yet another species of *Cantaberella* was found in the Picos de Europa range, which raises the question how many further undescribed species remain to be discovered in the Cordillera Cantábrica.

Cantaberella tenebrosa sp. n. (Figs. 1 - 11)

Holotype ♂: E - No. 14, Cantábria, Picos de Europa, Fuente Dé, Peña Vieja, 1940 m, 43°09'37N, 04°48'18W, 17.VII.2003, V. Assing / Holotypus *Cantaberella tenebrosa* sp. n. det. V. Assing 2003 (coll. Assing). **Paratypes**: 4♂♂, 1♀: same data as holotype (coll. Assing, coll. Wunderle, Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum Linz).

Description: Measurements (in mm) and ratios (range, arithmetic mean; n=6): maximal head width (HW): 0.27 - 0.29, 0.28; maximal width of pronotum (PW): 0.29 - 0.32, 0.31; length of pronotum along median line (PL): 0.25 - 0.27, 0.26; length of elytra from apex of scutellum to elytral hind margin (EL): 0.15 - 0.18, 0.16; elytral width (EW): 0.32 - 0.36, 0.33; total length from apex of mandibles to posterior margin of tergite VIII: 1.6 - 2.0, 1.8; PW/HW: 1.05 - 1.14, 1.09; PW/PL: 1.14 - 1.18, 1.17; EL/PL: 0.59 - 0.67, 0.63; EW/PW: 1.02 - 1.14, 1.07.

Habitus as in Fig. 2. Body blackish, with the legs light brown and the antennae and palpi light to dark brown.

Head approximately as wide as long, maximal width behind eyes; eyes less than half the length of postocular region, indistinctly projecting from lateral outline of head; integument with distinct microreticulation and subdued shine; puncturation extremely fine, barely noticeable. Antenna distinctly incrassate apically; antennomere III almost twice as

long as wide, IV weakly transverse, V - X of increasing width and increasingly transverse, X approximately twice as wide as long (Fig. 3).

Pronotum moderately transverse and slightly wider than head (see ratios PW/PL, PW/HW, and Fig. 3); maximal width in anterior half; with pronounced microreticulation; puncturation as fine as that of head.

Elytra slightly wider and at suture distinctly shorter than pronotum (see ratios EW/PW, EI/PL, and Fig. 3); surface usually slightly more shining than head and pronotum due to slightly shallower microsculpture. Hind wings completely reduced.

Abdomen slightly wider than elytra, maximal width at segment VI (Fig. 2); tergite VII without palisade fringe; tergite VIII without sexual dimorphism (Fig. 4).

♂: sternite VIII much longer than the corresponding tergite, its posterior margin strongly projecting posteriad (Fig. 5); median lobe of aedeagus as in Figs. 7 - 10.

♀: posterior margin of sternite VIII triangularly incised in the middle (Fig. 6); spermatheca as in Fig. 11.

Derivatio nominis: The name (Lat., adj.: dark, obscure) refers to the uniformly dark coloration of the species.

Comparative notes: The new species is readily separated from both *C. feldmanni* and *C. pacei* by the dark coloration of the forebody and the abdominal apex, the slightly larger size, the slightly less transverse antennomeres IV - X, the posteriorly more strongly projecting male sternite VII, and by the shape and much larger size of the aedeagus. For illustrations of the primary and secondary sexual characters of *C. pacei* and *C. feldmanni* see TRONQUET (1998) and ASSING (2000). The habitus of *C. feldmanni* is illustrated in Fig. 12.

Distribution and bionomics: *Cantaberella tenebrosa* is known only from the Peña Vieja, above Fuente Dé, in the Picos de Europa range, where it is probably endemic. The types were sifted from moss and from the roots of grass and cushion plants in the shade of rocks at an altitude of 1940 m (Fig. 1), together with an undescribed species of *Leptusa* KRAATZ, numerous specimens of *Leptusa franzi* PACE, and one specimen of *Euaesthetus hispanicus* COIFFAIT.

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Zusammenfassung

Cantaberella tenebrosa sp. n. (Cantábria: Picos de Europa), die dritte Art der Gattung, wird beschrieben und von *C. pacei* (TRONQUET) und *C. feldmanni* ASSING unterschieden; der Habitus und die primären und sekundären Sexualmerkmale werden abgebildet.

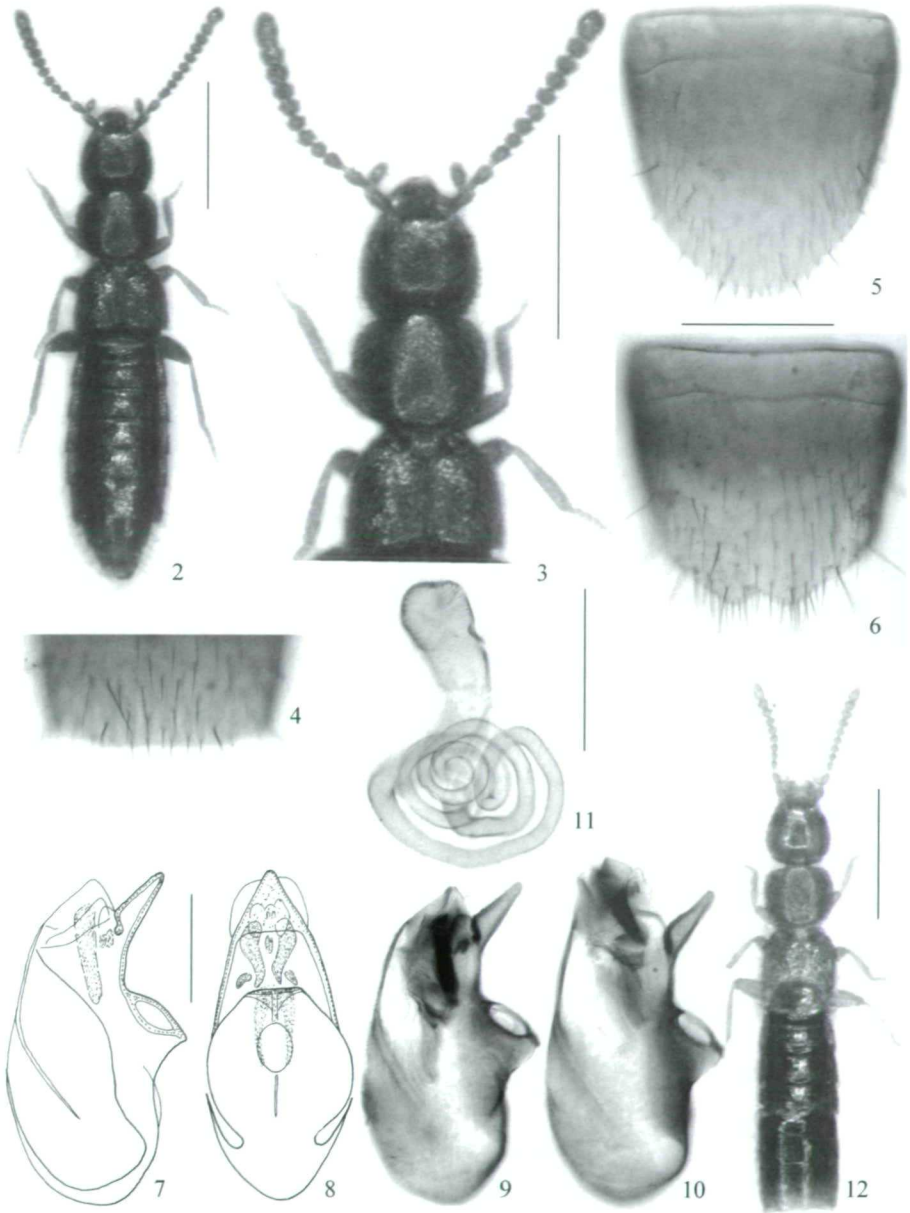
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Author's address: Dr. Volker ASSING
Gabelsbergerstr. 2
D-30163 Hannover, Germany
e-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de



Fig. 1: Type locality of *Cantaberella tenebrosa* sp. n.



Figs. 2 - 12: *Cantaberella tenebrosa* sp. n. (2 - 11) and *C. feldmanni* ASSING (12): 2, 12 – habitus of holotype; 3 – forebody; 4 – posterior part of tergite VIII; 5 – ♂ sternite VIII; 6 – ♀ sternite VIII; 7 - 10 – median lobe of aedeagus in lateral and in ventral view; 11 – spermatheca. Scale bars: 1 - 3, 12: 0.5 mm; 4 - 6: 0.2 mm; 7 - 11: 0.1 mm.