

Short communication

Description of female *Axonya farsica* (Col.: Carabidae: Broscinae)

S. Mohammadzadeh Fard

Department of Entomology, Natural History and Technology Museum of Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran, E-mail: sarah76925@yahoo.com

چکیده

گونه‌ی *Axonya farsica* Dostal & Zettel, 1999 برای اولین بار از ایران، استان فارس، جمع‌آوری و توصیف شد. این توصیف بر اساس یک عدد حشره‌ی نر صورت گرفت. در این تحقیق، حشره‌ی ماده از منطقه‌ی تنگ تیزاب در استان فارس و همچنین نزدیک یاسوج در استان کهگیلویه و بویراحمد جمع‌آوری شد که برای اولین بار توصیف می‌گردد.

Dostal & Zettel (1999) described *Axonya farsica* based on only one male, and the female remained unknown. Here, the female of this species is described. Forty specimens of *A. farsica* were collected on 29 April 2006 in Tang-e Tizab near Sepidan in Fars province, near the place where the male was captured by Dostal & Zettel (1999), as well as 30 other specimens collected on 3 May 2006 near Yasuj in Kohkiluyeh and Boyerahmad province. All these suggest that *A. farsica* is locally a common species in the southern part of the Zagros Mountain, Iran. All specimens of *A. farsica* were found under stones near the water side in the same river system.

Description: female length and width 10.8-11.3 and 3.6-4.1 mm, respectively; for males, these measurements are 10.3-10.6 and 3.6-3.8 mm, respectively.

Colour: metallic blue, with blue or green lustre, at the apex piceous; first interval along suture dark without lustre; antennomeres 1-4 reddish-yellow, antennomeres 5-11 fuscous; palpi and legs reddish yellow; mandibles and labrum dark brown; epipleura and ventrites piceous; mesothorax, pro- and episternum brown to dark brown; prosternum dark brown; gula and mentum black. Males with the same colour, but brighter metallic coloration.

Head and clypeus coarsely punctuate, head including eyes not wider than pronotum; mandibles triangular and hooked at the apex, with a seta in outer furrow; postgena punctuate; gula glabrous; lobes of mentum rounded at the sides, median tooth with two basal setae, submentum bisetose; antennae from second half of 4^e antennomere onwards pubescent; labial palps with 2 setae and palps truncate.

Prothorax convex, front angles distinct, sides strongly rounded and constricted at base, posterior obliquely-angled; punctuation of disc and sides variately but more finely than head;

anterior and posterior margin not randed; median furrow clear but fine; prosternum coarsely punctuate; elytra glabrous, nearly 1.6 times as long as wide, striae finely punctuate.

Epipleura glabrous, only along inner margin with punctures; proepisternum, mesepisternum, prosternum and metasternum coarsely punctuate; ventrites III-VI nearly glabrous.

Genitalia: gonocoxa has a sharp tip; spermathecal duct is two-branches.

Material examined: 3♀ and 4♂, Iran: Fars province, Tang-e Tizab near Sepidan, 29.iv.2006, (J. Muilwijk).

Some additional differences between males and females are as follows: (1) protarsi in males more robust, (2) head and pronotum of males with green lustre and those of females with lustre mostly blue, and (3) the tip of prosternum in females punctuated and in males without punctuation.

I want to thank Jan Muilwijk for providing the material and helpful discussions, and also the Natural History and Technology Museum of Shiraz University for collaboration.

References

- Dostal, A. & Zettel H.** (1999) Revision of the genus *Axonya* Andrewes, 1923 (Coleoptera: Carabidae). *Zeitschrift der Arbeitsgemeinschaft Österreichischer Entomologen* 51, 109-118.

Received: 25 November 2006

Accepted: 13 November 2007