

**A NEW SPECIES OF *CYBOCEPHALUS* (COLEOPTERA,
CUCUJOIDEA, CYBOCEPHALIDAE) FROM ISRAEL**

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ABSTRACT

A description is given of *Cybocephalus israelicus* n.sp. found on *Tamarix tetragyna* in association with *Nilotaspis isis* Hall (Diaspididae), at the Dead Sea Area, Israel.
KEY WORDS: *Cybocephalus israelicus* n. sp., Coleoptera, Cybocephalidae, Israel.

Cybocephalid beetles (Coleoptera: Cybocephalidae) are widely distributed in many parts of the world, being primarily predators of armoured scale insects (Homoptera: Diaspididae) (Endrody-Younga, 1968). Nine species of *Cybocephalus* Erichson have been recorded so far from Israel (Blumberg, 1973), and the biology of some of them was studied (Blumberg and Swirski, 1982).

This paper presents the description of a new species of *Cybocephalus* which was found on *Tamarix tetragyna* Ehrenb. (Tamaricaceae) in association with *Nilotaspis isis* Hall (Diaspididae), at the Dead Sea area, Israel.

Cybocephalus israelicus Endrody-Younga n. sp.
(Fig. 1)

Male: Head narrow, clypeus projected, longitudinal axis of eyes almost parallel with that of the head. Genal angle in front of eye rounded acute-angled, not forming even a short genal canthus between antennal furrow and anterior angle of eye. Posterior edge of antennal furrow marginated. Surface greasy matt due to a dense and sharply impressed shagreen, basal punctures of hairs very fine, hardly discernible. Surface black with a faint, dull and dark bronzy sheen. Pronotum convex transversally, lateral lobes almost vertical. Lateral margins evenly arcuatedly truncate, immarginate and not reflected, slightly more transparent than rest of the surface. Shagreen and punctation of integument as well as colour similar to those of the head. Elytra longer than combined breadth, most convex transversely in the humeral section, here lateral portions more strongly bent ventrad and almost vertical. Suture line evenly and considerably arcuated (almost straight in *C. seminulum* Baudi); posterior margin broadly and arcuatedly truncate. Shagreen of integument similar, but finer than that of head and pronotum, punctuation similarly fine and simple. Ventral surface roughly shagreened, pubescence short but stronger than that of the dorsal surface. Antenna 11-segmented, short with stout segments, even more so than in *C. canariensis* and *C. seminulum* (Fig. 1c). Anterior tibia evenly dilated towards apex, apex truncate. Aedeagus feebly sclerotised, 0.13 mm long, 0.1 mm broad, apical process short and sharply pointed. Basal

plate 0.11 mm long and 0.11 mm broad, posteriorly broadly rounded with short thickened apical portion. No apparent setation (Figs. 1a and b).

Female: similar to male

Length: 0.82-0.89 mm with head bent; *breadth*: 0.55-0.61 mm.

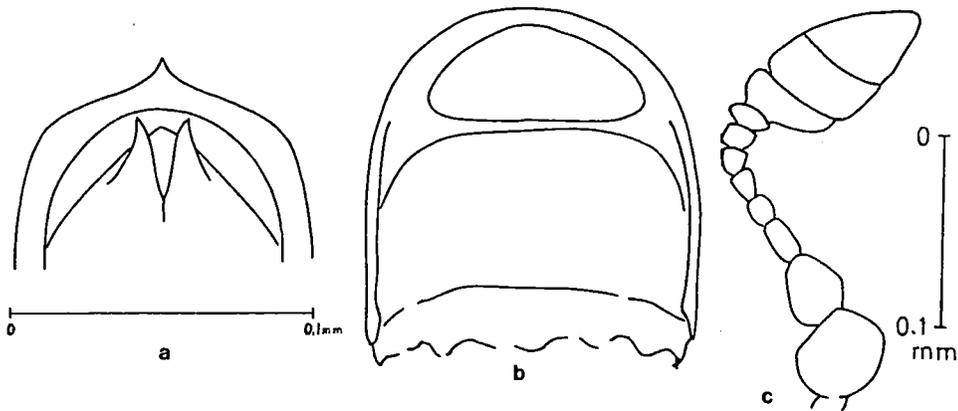


Fig. 1. *Cybocephalus israelicus* n. sp. (a) apical portion of the aedeagus in dorsal view. (b) basal plate of the aedeagus in ventral view. (c) antenna.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype ♂, allotype ♀, 4 paratypes, Israel, Kalia, 20.VIII. 1970, on *Tamarix tetragyna*, associated with *Nilotaspis isis* Hall; holotype, allotype and 2 paratypes deposited in the collection of the Department of Entomology, Agricultural Research Organization, Bet Dagan, Israel; 2 paratypes deposited in the author's collection.

The new species belongs in a group of Mediterranean species that includes *C. canariensis* Endrödy-Younga, 1968 and *C. seminulum* Baudi, 1870. In the revision of the Palaearctic species of the family (Endrödy-Younga, 1968: 43), it keys out in couplet 68 (69), and indeed it resembles more the Canarian species, *C. canariensis*, than the East-Mediterranean species, *C. seminulum*. The genal angle in front of eyes is sharper and narrower than in either of the abovementioned species. Elytra considerably convex longitudinally, more like in *C. canariensis* than in *C. seminulum*. Head more convex than in either of the named species and does not show a lateral angle behind eyes. Basal plate of aedeagus lacking any kind of apico-median process.

HOSTS: The host plant is *Tamarix tetragyna* Ehrenb. (Tamaricaceae). Scale host not recorded on type specimens, but is named as *Nilotaspis isis* Hall (Diaspididae) (Blumberg, 1973:129).

ETYMOLOGY: The species is named after the country of its origin.

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