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SERBOPHOLEUONOPSIS, A NEW ENDEMIC GENUS OF CHOLEVID BEETLES (CHOLEVIDAE, COLEOPTERA) BASED ON *PHOLEUONOPSIS CVIJICI* S. B. ĆURČIĆ & M. M. BRAJKOVIĆ.

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Recently, Ćurčić and Brajković (2002) described a new cave species of the coleopteran family Cholevidae from a cave in western Serbia. This endemic form was included into the genus *Pholeuonopsis* Apfelbeck and named *P. cvijici* S. B. Ćurčić & M. M. Brajković, 2002.

However, a thorough analysis of a number of important taxonomic differences between the new taxon and other members of *Pholeuonopsis* has proved that "*P*". *cvijici* belongs in a separate genus, new to science: *Serbopholeuonopsis* n. gen., which is probably relict and endemic to cave habitats in western Serbia.

SERBOPHOLEUONOPSIS, NEW GENUS

Etymology - After Serbia (its terra typica) and *Pholeuonopsis*.

Type species - *Pholeuonopsis cvijici* S. B. Ćurčić & M. M. Brajković (Ćurčić and Brajković 2002).

Other species - None (monotypic genus).

Type locality - The Potpećska Pećina Cave, village Potpeće, nr. Užice, western Serbia, 21 August 2002 (Fig. 1): holotype male, allotype female, and six paratypes (4 males and 2 females), collected by S. B. Ćurčić, B. M. Mitić, B. P. M. Ćurčić, and S. V. Djukić.

Fig. 1. The distribution of *Serbopholeuonopsis cvijici* (S. B. Ćurčić and M. M. Brajković) in Serbia (marked with a cross).

Diagnosis - From the phenetically closest genus *Pholeuonopsis*, the new genus is easily distinguished in many important aspects: trapezoid pronotum with two supraelytral furrows (*vs.* subtrapezoid pronotum, with no supraelytral furrows); antero-lateral sides of elytra slightly convex (*vs.* antero-lateral sides of elytra slightly concave); scutellum small, knob-like (*vs.* scutellum large and triangular); elytral apices not rounded (*vs.* elytral apices slightly rounded); elytral furrows somewhat longer than mid-elytra (*vs.* elytral furrows almost reach elytral apex); setae on femur, tibia, and tarsus shorter (*vs.* setae on femur, tibia, and tarsus longer).

Additionally, *Serbopholeuonopsis* n. gen. differs form *Pholeuonopsis* in the form of the median lobus of the aedeagus, in the form of the basal edge of aedeagus (angular *vs.* rounded), in the form of the anterolateral border of aedeagus (only slightly rounded *vs.* protruded), in the form of the apex of the median lobe (rounded *vs.* triangular), in the length of paramerae to the length of median lobus ratio (paramerae shorter *vs.* paramerae longer than the median lobe), in the length of the inner sac of aedeagus (long *vs.* short), in the position of the chitinous thickening of the inner sac (more basal *vs.* more median), etc.

On the other hand, the new genus shares a number of similarities in its body plan and morphometry, both with *Pholeuonopsis* and some *Pholeuonopsis*-related genera (for instance, with *Anillocharis* Reitter) (Ćurčić and Brajković 2002; Jeannel 1924).

Distribution - This new genus is presently known from a single cave in western Serbia (Potpećska Pećina Cave, v. Potpeće, nr. Užice). It is probable that it is also present in other subterranean habitats in the area studied, i. e. in the Stari Vlah Mountains wich extend both southwards and southwestwards to Užice.

Remarks - *Serbopholeuonopsis* n. gen. probably belongs to a separate phyletic lineage (including *Pholeuonopsis*) which originated during the Paleogene. The endemic differentiation of the *Serbopholeuonopsis*-related genera in the central part of the Balkan Peninsula (Serbia) was made possible by the Alpine Orogeny as well as by the evolution of the karstic relief (and the subsequent formation of many new niches underground).

Therefore, the new genus represents an endemic and relict form both in the Balkan Peninsula and Serbia.

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