



## Two new species of the genus *Gunarus* Des Gozis, 1886 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini) from Southern Turkey

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### Abstract

Three species of the genus *Gunarus* (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Helopini) are known from Turkey: *G. lapidicola* (Küster, 1850), *G. gayirbegi* sp. n. and *G. korkutelensis* sp. n. The species *G. nodicornis* Reitter, 1922 was described from Algeria (Takhat) and erroneously recorded from Turkey (Tokat). A key to the species of *Gunarus* of Turkey is provided.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, *Gunarus*, new species, Southern Turkey

### Introduction

Representatives of the genus *Gunarus* Des Gozis, 1886 are known from Northern Africa, Spain, Italy, Malta, the Aegean Islands, the Balkan Peninsula and Turkey. Only one species of this genus, *G. lapidicola* (Küster, 1850), was recorded in Turkey (European Turkey, Thracia). Gebien (1943) as well as Español & Comas (1987) erroneously mentioned *G. nodicornis* Reitter, 1922 from the city of Tokat in Turkey. However, this species was originally described from specimens with a similar locality name: the mountain Takhat in Algeria (Reitter, 1922). The mistake of these authors was repeated recently (Nabozhenko & Löbl, 2008). In this paper two new species of *Gunarus* from southern Turkey are described.

Many species from genera *Catomus* Allard, 1876 and *Ectromopsis* Antoine, 1949 have been included in the genus *Gunarus* by several authors (Reitter, 1922; Medvedev, 1965; Angelov & Medvedev, 1981; Español & Comas, 1987; Abdurakhmanov & Medvedev, 1994). Español and Comas (1987) reviewed the genus *Gunarus* of southern Europe and partially of Northern Africa and provided a short diagnosis of the genus, new descriptions and key to species in which they overlooked the description of one more species from the Aegean Island Santorin (Grimm 1981). More recently, some species were transferred to the genus *Ectromopsis* of the subtribe *Cylindrinotina* (Nabozhenko, 2005).

The genus *Gunarus* is closely related to the genus *Catomus* from which it differs in the vertical basal margin of elytra, fully developed humeral angles and fully developed dorsal margin of the epipleura (lateral margin of elytra). The vertical basal margin of the elytra and humeral angles allow movement of the pronotum only in a dorso-ventral direction, whereas the pronotum of *Catomus* can move in lateral and dorso-ventral directions; this allows for more efficient movement in cavities of soil, tunnels of other invertebrates (Formicidae, Annelidae etc.), or free movements on branches of small shrubs and grassy vegetation. Contrary to the majority of *Catomus*, many representatives of the genus *Gunarus* live on trees, on which they feed on lichens at night.